



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014

In 2013 we celebrated our 40th anniversary in style! From Ibex Puppetry's thrilling *Celebration of Flight* to Jane Goodall and George Archibald's inspiring words for the conservation leaders of tomorrow, our 40th Anniversary Gala in September was an inspirational weekend. We are so grateful to all of our friends and supporters who made this event, and our first 40 years possible. We advanced our priority conservation programs for cranes and wetlands in 15 countries worldwide, as well as here in North America, and hosted nine international colleagues and 20 interns at our ICF Headquarters' Center for Conservation Leadership in Baraboo.

At heart, our anniversary was a celebration of the ICF vision – our cherished aspiration that a shared passion for cranes and the wild places where they live joins us together – and together we make a real difference for cranes, for the earth, and for ourselves.

I first experienced the power of ICF's vision in the 1980s, when we were searching for conservation solutions for vanishing Eastern Sarus Cranes and wetlands in the rapidly developing Mekong Delta of Vietnam. We asked many villagers about their Sếu Đầu Đỏ (red-headed cranes), but received little more than shrugs. Then one day we discovered that local people have a second, preferred name for the Sarus Crane, Hộc, which means, "the holy bird that takes your soul to heaven." When we asked local people about the Hộc, we learned that villagers knew much and cared deeply about the birds. Their reverence for cranes, and commitment to saving them with our help, led to the creation of Tram Chim National Park, securing one of the most diverse and productive wetlands in Southeast Asia.

In Kenya and Uganda – where the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane adorns the national flag, coat of arms, and the National "Crane" Bank – our vision also thrives. Hundreds of enthusiastic children have joined together in after-school clubs to save cranes and wetlands, under inspired leadership of ICF Associates Maurice Wanjala and Jimmy Muheebwa. They celebrate their cranes through drumming, dances, and songs, while safeguarding crane nests from people, tractors, and dogs. They are champions for the small wetlands that support cranes and provide many important resources for their community.

Over time, I have found that our vision is alive among unexpected partners – dam operators, municipal governments, artisanal fishers, prawn companies, riverbank farmers, and safari operators – as the future of cranes increasingly depends on healthy watersheds and thriving communities. From the Amur to the Zambezi, we are engaged in finding sustainable solutions for some of the most important river basins of the world.

Over the next 40 years, important new chapters in the story of people and cranes will unfold. A reunified Korea will decide whether the former Demilitarized Zone becomes an international Peace Park and biosphere reserve for its immeasurable wealth of wildlife – including Endangered Red Crowned Cranes – or gives way to a congestion of roads, industry, ports, and cities. Chinese officials will commit to saving Poyang Lake, the most important wetland in East Asia and home to the entire wintering population of Critically Endangered Siberian Cranes, or regulate it for commerce. Texas will find sustainable solutions for managing its land and demand for water, or witness the loss of the last remaining wild flock of Endangered Whooping Cranes and the coastal way of life. Our work together will make a real difference for the future of these places, and everywhere we work.

I hope you enjoy these program highlights from our 40th anniversary year. Thank you for sharing in our dream of a better world.

Dr. Richard Beilfuss, President & CEO



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Grey Crowned Crane – for many an enduring symbol of the African wilds – has declined more rapidly than any other crane species and continues to be a major priority of the ICF/Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Africa Program. We are playing a key role in reducing the trade in wild caught cranes, which is having a particularly severe impact on Grey and Black Crowned Cranes. We were instrumental in ensuring that both species of crowned cranes were included in the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Significant Trade Review Process, to determine whether wild caught trade is having a detrimental effect on wild populations. Since that time, we have provided important data into this process, leading to the recent suspension of trade in Black Crowned Cranes from Guinea, Sudan, and South Sudan and in Grey Crowned Cranes from Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania, through the 16th CITES Conference of the Parties held this year in Bangkok. These suspensions will remain in place until the countries can prove that export will not be detrimental to wild populations and that they are able to successfully monitor export permits granted and actual exports. We also convened a meeting of 31 experts from nine countries where Grey Crowned Cranes occur in East and Southern Africa, to develop a Single Species Action Plan under the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). The plan is a key tool for developing strategies that address threats facing the species in each country and across the region.



Jim Harris

We celebrated a major conservation victory in January 2014 with the declaration of approximately 150,000 acres in South Africa's Lakes District at Chrissiesmeer as a Protected Environment. This new protection status is a legal safeguard against prevalent unsustainable development in the area. The ICF/EWT partnership spearheaded over 60 landowner engagements in Chrissiesmeer that enable willing landowners to enter into legally binding agreements with the government. Local communities still have the use of their land for their livelihoods, but in a way that ensures the ecological integrity of the site, and works toward economically-viable livestock production and tourism, water security, improved veld condition, and biodiversity conservation. It is the largest Protected Environment in the country and an area of critical biodiversity and water resources – including all three crane species of South Africa.



Ursula Franke

Aerial and ground surveys in Zambia suggest that Wattled Crane numbers are increasing in the heart of their range. At Liuwa Plain in western Zambia, an aerial survey revealed more than 1,900 vulnerable Wattled Cranes, the highest count ever recorded at this national park. Liuwa Plain may also be the most important wetland in Africa for Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes. On the Kafue Flats of central Zambia, ICF Research Associate Griffin Shanungu counted more than 1,800 Wattled Cranes – including 1,550 at a single roost site. These numbers are especially encouraging as Wattled Cranes are declining in several surrounding countries. We are focused on new threats at these key sites in Zambia, including a proposed large geothermal mine on the Kafue Flats that would impact breeding and feeding grounds for Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes as well as African buffalo, Kafue lechwe antelope, and other important species.





Wang Keju

Habitat loss and water shortages have greatly reduced the numbers and distribution of Red-crowned Cranes in Inner Mongolia. Hui River National Nature Reserve has most of the remaining cranes, although far less than a decade earlier. Since 2008, ICF has conducted surveys each fall to determine chick production. During 2008-10, we found only 1 or 2 chicks per year in total from 10 pairs, in part due to human disturbance. In an effort to reverse this decline, we initiated public education activities for schools and herders in 2011, and chick numbers have steadily increased. This past year, we found 82 Red-crowned Cranes, including 61 adults and 21 chicks! Good water conditions and difficult access to wetlands for humans also contributed to these encouraging numbers.

Numbers of White-naped Cranes migrating across China to winter at Poyang Lake have dropped from 3,000 birds a decade ago to less than half that number now. We have partnered with the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia and the U.S. Forest Service to find out why. During the summer of 2013, our team captured and color-banded 41 White-naped Cranes on the breeding grounds in the Khurkh River Valley of northeast Mongolia. We attached telemetry units to six of the birds enabling us to track the birds during migration and winter. Students from Beijing Forestry University visited key sites along the flyway, and studied habitat preferences during winter. We learned that Duolun, a grassland in Inner Mongolia, provided food and rest for the migratory cranes during both autumn and spring migration. It is a key area to protect as it is now threatened by agricultural development and tourism. The cranes also relied on Miyun Reservoir near Beijing and Beidagang Reservoir on the coast of Bohai as well as other sites. We are continuing the tracking study in 2014 and developing conservation proposals based on our cooperative research.



Nyambayar Batbayar



At Cao Hai Nature Reserve in China, we held our second annual meeting to exchange information and project planning on behalf of Black-necked Crane Conservation. We were joined by 42 participants, including nature reserve managers from wintering and breeding grounds, researchers, and representatives from non-governmental organizations in China and abroad. Our 3rd annual meeting will occur at Qinghai Lake during the summer of 2014. Important outcomes of the network include the completion of a coordinated Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau Black-necked Crane count, and a special issue of Zoological Research on Black-necked Cranes to be published in late 2014.

ICF's programs based in India and Vietnam/Cambodia are working together to assess the status of the globally threatened Sarus Crane and its wetland habitats across its range, from India and Nepal, through Myanmar and the countries of Southeast Asia, to Australia. In South Asia, we are monitoring more than 1,000 crane pairs, and aided by an unusual rainfall pattern in 2013-14, we recorded the highest ever breeding success for Sarus Cranes. The future of the Sarus Crane across its range is closely tied to the preservation of small wetlands, often on densely populated, agricultural landscapes. ICF's Vietnamese and Cambodian teams, working with a network of universities, are mapping their countries' wetlands, identifying threats from aquaculture, rubber plantations, and other development, and designing opportunities for industries to adopt crane-friendly management practices.



K.S. Gopi Sundar



Climate change is a serious challenge for threatened cranes and the wetlands and watersheds that sustain them – hotter conditions, more extreme weather patterns, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels – especially in conjunction with large dams and other river basin development. The Mekong River basin in Southeast Asia, home to a major wintering population of Eastern Sarus Cranes and many other threatened species, is no exception. This past year, ICF President Richard Beilfuss and Southeast Asia Program Manager Tran Triet were commissioned by the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ) to produce the report, “Climate Change and Hydropower in the Mekong River Basin”. The study advises Mekong basin countries on the impact of climate change on hydrology and hydropower production, and the cumulative impact of hydropower development and climate change on the vital ecosystem services and biodiversity provided by wetlands in the basin.

We completed a study that provides critical information for safeguarding the future of Whooping Cranes that winter along the Texas coast. With funding from the Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative Program, scientists from ICF and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory evaluated what coastal marsh habitat is available now for the growing Whooping Crane population and what habitat will be available as climate change causes sea level rise. The study addressed the core question, “Will we have 125,000 acres of coastal marsh habitat in and around the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to support the Whooping Crane Recovery Plan goals of 1,000 cranes with 250 nesting pairs?” The study revealed there will be approximately 90,000 acres, of which only 24,000 acres are currently protected. “The conservation community will need to search for an additional 35,000 acres farther up the Texas coast to meet our recovery goals,” explained Liz Smith, ICF Conservation Biologist. “Innovative programs working with landowners, developers, and governments, are needed to conserve all these areas, and this study is helping us focus our work now and for the future.”



Mike Endres



Ted Thousand

Our work to find market-driven solutions for farmers dealing with avian crop depredation continues to help cranes on agricultural landscapes across North America. In 2013, almost 200,000 acres in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota were treated with the repellent Avipel, which ICF has proven to be effective in preventing Sandhill Crane damage to spring corn plantings. Additionally, virtually all the rice fields in Louisiana (about 50,000 acres) are now treated with Avipel to keep ducks and blackbirds from consuming planted rice seed. The Whooping Cranes being reintroduced into the wetlands of southern Louisiana also use these rice fields, and farmers would be less accepting of this new crane population if they lacked effective solutions like this to resolve conflicts with wild birds on their fields.

For 24 years, ICF has been the home for about half of the captive Whooping Cranes in the world, a flock that is maintained as insurance against a catastrophic event affecting the wild population, and as a source of eggs and chicks for the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) and Louisiana reintroduction projects. In 2013, ICF aviculturists managed the flock to produce a record 43 eggs from captive cranes, which were shared with other captive centers to maximize the number of chicks available for this year's releases. This record production included first-ever eggs from 2 young females, Sage and McGee – serendipitous timing – as two 31-year-old females, Riva and Ginger, stopped egg laying. Combined, the two had produced 161 eggs at ICF and contributed dozens of chicks to the reintroduced populations. ICF assisted WCEP with a year-long Strategic Decision Making process, which was focused on developing a plan for chick releases to maximize the success of the reintroduction. The healthy, genetically diverse captive population of Whooping Cranes that has been developed at ICF will continue to be a source of chicks for reintroduction into east-central Wisconsin as part of the new plan.



Tom Lynn



wintering area for Black-necked Cranes in Bhutan. And Qing is working with ICF in China to develop and evaluate educational programs to safeguard cranes and wetlands.

A key focus of ICF's Headquarters in Baraboo is the mentorship and training of tomorrow's conservation leaders. In 2013 the Communication and Education Department's summer team included Ren Qing from China, Jigme Tshering from Bhutan, and Kelly Schaeffer, a U.S. intern. Each led tours for visitors to our crane exhibits, contributing their unique perspectives about the cranes of their countries. Qing also did a Master's degree study, evaluating how guided tours at ICF compare to self-guided visits and their impact on the visitor's understanding of crane conservation issues and commitment to taking action. Now, all three continue to contribute to conservation in ways important to ICF's mission. Kelly's graduate work here in Wisconsin is focusing on how environmental organizations are integrating technology into their programming. Jigme is using educational techniques learned at ICF to develop programs for the nature center in Phobjikha Valley, an important

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ended March 31, 2014 and 2013

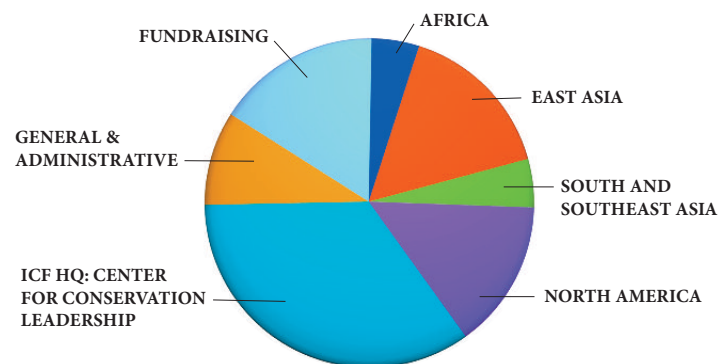
ASSETS	2014	2013
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,076,505	\$1,246,850
Certificates of Deposit	256,001	254,956
Accounts receivable	6,054	4,929
Grants receivable	39,999	76,950
Unconditional promises to give, current portion	244,328	472,776
Inventories	68,498	62,919
Prepaid expenses	88,917	26,092
Total Current Assets	2,780,302	2,145,472
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	3,548,865	3,746,726
OTHER ASSETS		
Unconditional promises to give, long-term portion	267,246	159,052
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts	861,260	791,566
Assets restricted to endowments	1,622,871	1,622,871
Long Term Investments	14,442,047	12,422,551
Total Other Assets	17,193,424	14,996,040
Total Assets	\$23,522,591	\$20,888,238
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$140,148	\$92,018
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	160,714	140,164
Deferred revenue	100,915	54,134
Total Current Liabilities	401,777	286,316
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	18,896,252	16,613,551
Temporarily restricted	2,601,691	2,365,500
Permanently restricted	1,622,871	1,622,871
Total Net Assets	23,120,814	20,601,922
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$23,522,591	\$20,888,238

2014 REVENUE



Contributions	\$4,648,838	57.4%
Grants	305,778	3.8%
Special events	301,574	3.7%
Memberships	399,279	4.9%
Sales and Tour income	229,996	2.8%
Investment income	2,160,570	26.6%
Other	64,971	0.8%
Total Revenue	8,111,006	100.0%

2014 EXPENSES



Africa	262,782	4.70%
East Asia	885,953	15.84%
South and Southeast Asia	264,927	4.74%
North America	812,457	14.53%
ICF HQ: Center for Conservation Leadership	1,935,667	34.61%
General & Administrative	519,867	9.30%
Fundraising	910,461	16.28%
Total Program Services	4,161,786	74.42%
Total Supporting Activities	1,430,328	25.58%
Total Expenses	5,592,114	100.0%

CONTRIBUTORS

The International Crane Foundation (ICF) acknowledges the generosity of all our supporters who made gifts between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. Together, we are making a real difference for cranes and our fragile planet – protecting some of the most important places and biodiversity on Earth. Space does not allow us to recognize the thousands of individuals, companies, agencies, and foundations that support our mission, but we are grateful to you all.

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