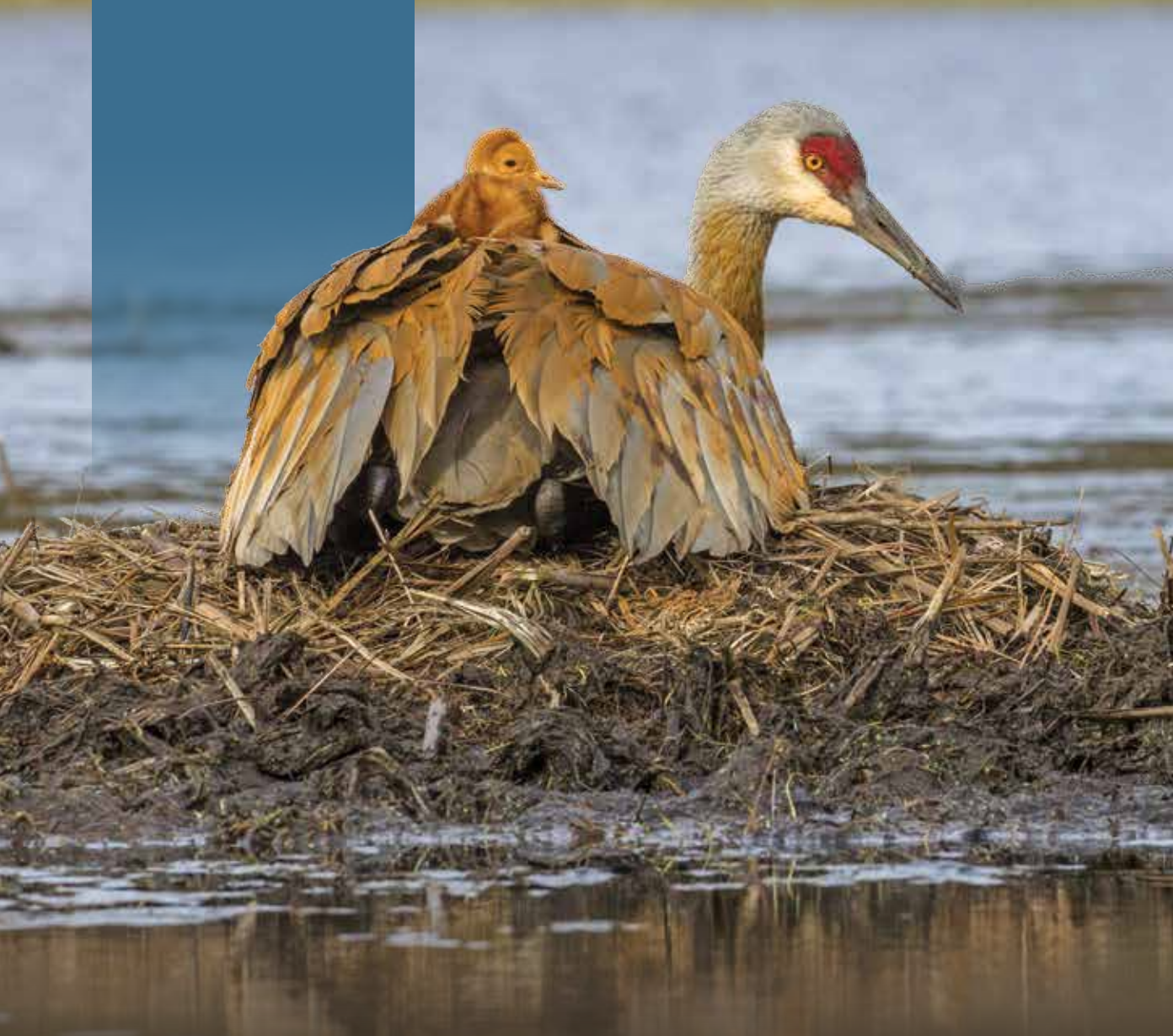




ANNUAL REPORT 2017

April 2016-March 2017



INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION



Wow, what an amazing year it was!

We discovered new nests for vanishing Black Crowned Cranes in one of their last African strongholds, and met with inspirational communities who are dedicated to saving these endangered birds. In Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, we expanded our efforts to save the rapidly declining Grey Crowned Crane – restoring their wetland

homes, and reducing illegal trade and poisonings. In South Africa, we crafted new protected area agreements for immense areas that harbor cranes and other wildlife.

We celebrated the declaration of Phu My wetland as Vietnam’s newest protected area, a critical site for threatened Sarus Cranes and home to our award-winning program for improving local livelihoods through wetland conservation. From Senegal to China, India, Cambodia, and beyond, we earned our reputation as a respected and authentic leader and partner in conservation.

Here at home, we focused on the needs of endangered Whooping Cranes on the Texas coast. To bolster populations in the wild, we raised Whooping Crane chicks for release in Wisconsin and Louisiana. Led by our passionate team of more than 100 staff, interns, and volunteers, our headquarters hummed with education and outreach activities, cutting-edge husbandry and captive breeding techniques, field research on wild cranes and wetlands, conservation training, and so much more.

When you commit to saving cranes, you commit to sustainable water management, land protection and stewardship, biodiversity conservation on agricultural lands, conservation-friendly livelihoods, and empowering the conservation leaders of tomorrow. We are all about cranes, but we are about so much more. This annual report highlights the keys to our success.

I hope you will continue to support the International Crane Foundation as your trusted partner in conservation. Together we can save cranes and the places where cranes dance.

With gratitude,

Dr. Richard Beilfuss
President & CEO

Our work is focused on six key strategies

Resolving Threats to Cranes

Ensuring Healthy Wetlands, Grasslands, and Agricultural Landscapes

Bringing People Together

Improving Local Livelihoods

Empowering Conservation Leadership

Building Knowledge for Policy and Action

The fate of cranes mirrors the health of the places they inhabit – the wild places on which they depend, the working landscapes that surround them, the flyways they follow across continents, and the global environment they share with all species, including ourselves. Crane conservation requires intimate knowledge of complex needs of the birds themselves, and action on their behalf. To save cranes, we must engage people in the conservation of landscapes that nurture cranes, ourselves, and the diversity of life on Earth.



Charity Navigator honors the International Crane Foundation with the highest rating. You can trust that your donations are being carefully used for the highest priority conservation work.

The International Crane Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

RESOLVING THREATS TO CRANES

Rwandan veterinarians after a long day examining cranes at the Avian Conservation Medicine Workshop. Photo by Olivier Nsengimana

Rehabilitating Cranes in Rwanda

In Rwanda, more Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes are held in illegal captivity than in the wild. Our partnership in Rwanda are with the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA) scaled up significantly in 2016 to get these cranes safely back into the wild. Our Director of Conservation Medicine Dr. Barry Hartup partnered with Rwandan veterinarian Dr. Olivier Nsengimana to lead a workshop for Rwandan veterinarians in crane medical care. The workshop focused on supporting RWCA's efforts to rehabilitate and repatriate Grey Crowned Cranes rescued as part of a government-sponsored effort to reduce illegal trade. The course included group research, presentations, practical field work experience, and a visit to Akagera National Park where the cranes are eventually released.

While at Akagera, the team safely re-captured several cranes at the release area to place new color bands that will be used for identification by RWCA biologists in their monitoring efforts. We also initiated two research projects to better understand challenges during the rehabilitation and early post-release periods of the repatriation process. Special funding for this work came from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums Conservation Grants Fund.



Dr. Barry Hartup examines an injured crane at Akagera National Park, Rwanda.

Tackling Whooping Crane Chick Mortality

Reintroduced Whooping Cranes are now nesting in Wisconsin. They are successfully laying eggs and hatching chicks. Unfortunately, we are losing far too many of these chicks to predators. Our biologists are concerned that Whooping Cranes raised by humans may be less adept at protecting their chicks from predators than Whooping Cranes raised by actual cranes. This past year marked the first year we could rear the entire cohort of chicks with their Whooping Crane parents, rather than with surrogate parents (humans) in costumes. Interactions with human handlers were greatly minimized during the captive period prior to release. Our aviculturists helped assess appropriate release locations, conducted the releases, and then monitored the released chicks. They were then tracked with their adult migration guides to learn more about this reintroduction technique. The information we collect from these releases will help us learn more about how chicks fare in the wild, and whether their rearing method is a factor in their survival.



Photo by Joel Sartore



Photo by Tom Lynn

Reintroducing Whooping Cranes to the Wild

As we work to resolve the many threats to the naturally occurring population of endangered Whooping Cranes that winters in Texas, we are also continuing our efforts to establish additional breeding populations. In 2016, we participated in two Whooping Crane Reintroduction programs aimed at establishing a migratory population in the eastern United States and also a resident population in Louisiana. Chicks for the eastern migratory population were all reared by captive parents and released into the wild in Wisconsin near adult cranes who can serve as migration models. The Louisiana chicks were reared using a costume-rearing technique as there are not enough adult Whooping Cranes in captivity to raise all the chicks. The Wisconsin birds were released in the early fall to bond with potential Whooping Crane foster pairs, or to associate with groups of migrating cranes. Nine birds successfully migrated for the winter. We sent four costume-reared chicks to the Louisiana program for release, and all are reported to be doing well.



Reducing the Threat of Contaminants on White-naped Cranes

Elevated levels of heavy metals and organic pollutants are an ongoing environmental threat and can have a variety of adverse effects on cranes and other wildlife. Together with Dr. Nyamba Batbayar of the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia (WSCC), we are investigating White-naped Cranes for exposure to these chemicals. The population in the beautiful Khurkh and Khuiten River Valleys is representative of many Asian cranes that breed in remote northern areas, but migrate through, and winter in heavily developed and industrial regions of China with soil and water pollution concerns. Understanding contaminant loads in breeding and young cranes will help prioritize this issue for conservation actions throughout the flyway.

A newly hatched White-naped Crane chick at the nest where eggshell fragments were tested for contaminants such as lead and arsenic. Photo by WSCC



Sandhill Cranes successfully negotiate a power line. Photo by Hillary Thompson

Power Lines and Sandhill Cranes

Power line collisions are a major cause of death for many crane populations around the world, so when a new transmission line was approved near our headquarters, we jumped on the opportunity to better understand how to reduce the impact of the power line on the abundant Sandhill Crane population nearby. We developed a study, funded by the American Transmission Company, to investigate how the cranes used the airspace within the proposed area of construction. Over the course of 14 weeks, 13 different species of birds were recorded crossing the proposed power line corridor. We found that the majority of Sandhill Cranes flew higher than the height of the proposed transmission line, but we are still concerned with possible collisions, especially on foggy days. We will continue to document Sandhill Crane interactions with the new power lines once all of the poles and lines have been installed, and marking devices have been fitted on the static line.

ENSURING HEALTHY WETLANDS, GRASSLANDS, AND AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES



Good foraging habitat is essential for Siberian Cranes during their long migrations. Photo by Sun Xiaoming

Enhancing Wetland Resilience at Momoge Reserve in China

Momoge wetlands are the most important migratory staging area in the world for the critically endangered Siberian Crane. We are working with the National Bird Banding Center of China and nature reserve leadership at Momoge National Nature Reserve (NNR) in northeast China to develop a Wetland Zonation and Management Plan. The plan offers specific recommendations for management and restoration, focusing on the highest priority wetlands for sustaining water bird diversity, especially for the Siberian Crane and other threatened species. The plan will enhance wetland resilience under the diverse water conditions typical of this semi-arid region.

Nearby Xianghai NNR participated in this planning process, and is now ready to undertake a similar wetland plan. Xianghai has significant water shortages. In contrast, water releases in autumn from the rice paddies adjacent to Momoge challenge wetland management with too much water. The contrast between these two situations makes for strong demonstration values for our work. Through our ten-year project supported by Disney Conservation Fund on behalf of the Siberian Crane, we will disseminate our methods to other wetlands in northeast China.



Tram Chim wetlands – a mosaic of Melaleuca swamp forests and seasonally inundated marshes.

Improving the Management of Tram Chim National Park

Three decades ago, we began work in Southeast Asia at a wetland in South Vietnam that is now Tram Chim National Park, the largest protected wetland in the Mekong River Delta. Tram Chim is an important dry season site for the Eastern Sarus Cranes, whose population is small and in decline. Located in the deepest part of the Mekong Delta floodplain, Tram Chim's wetlands consist of a mosaic of Melaleuca swamp forests and seasonally inundated marshes. During the early years of our involvement at Tram Chim, we helped design and implement a wetland restoration program aimed at restoring the natural hydrological regime that included an annual wet-dry cycle. The implementation of the restoration plan, however, suffered from a period of setback when Tram Chim managers, out of fear of uncontrollable forest fires, decided to keep high water in Tram Chim all year round.

Permanent flooding choked wetland vegetation, especially the seasonally inundated marshes where Sarus Cranes foraged, resulting in a steep reduction in the numbers of cranes using Tram Chim wetlands. In the early 2000s, we helped develop a new fire-water management plan for Tram Chim, which the central and provincial governments adopted. The new plan has been implemented at Tram Chim since 2008 and has brought healthy growths in wetland vegetation. Now after ten years of implementation, we are conducting a thorough evaluation of the wetland management plan to evaluate our conservation impact. In early 2017, Dong Thap Province funded a two-year study at Tram Chim to assess wetland biodiversity, the Sarus crane's habitat improvement, and to create a biodiversity database. This unusually large research grant of \$200,000, is a testament to the commitment of the local government to better understand crane and wetland management in Vietnam.



Sharing Wetlands with Cranes in Liuwa Plains National Park, Zambia

The Liuwa Plains National Park in the upper Zambezi River in Zambia is a key area for both Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes. Over 200 villages are located within the park boundaries and they depend on the natural resources the park has to offer. This includes fishing rights to each of the many pans in the park and subsistence agriculture. A study on community perceptions was conducted to better understand how the communities value wildlife, the threats people pose to cranes and other biodiversity, and their impact on cranes and other species. The study revealed very good news. Grey Crowned and Wattled Cranes are thriving in wetlands where legally permitted community fishing practices occur within the park. Based on this information, we can focus our efforts on ensuring that communities continue to meet their livelihood needs in ways that are compatible with the park's biodiversity.



Fitting the tracking devices. Photos by Lourens Leeuwner

Maintaining Safe Landscapes for South Africa's National Bird

The majority of the world's Blue Cranes are found in the wheat and pasture mosaic of the Western Cape in South Africa. These grasslands are ideal for cranes, and they now have a higher than normal breeding productivity despite a 12 percent mortality due to collisions with power lines in the area. This seemingly good outlook could, however, be precarious. A decline in breeding productivity or an increase in adult mortality could change the current situation dramatically. The number of proposed wind farms, an increasing power line network, and a change in the agricultural landscape due to climatic or socio-economic factors could have serious implications for South Africa's National Bird.

To better understand their movements and use of the agricultural landscape, 10 Blue Cranes were fitted with satellite tracking devices. The information we collect will provide baseline information on their use of the landscape and allow us to better predict their response to changes in the landscape and to direct conservation action accordingly. We will also be better able to provide objective input into wind farm and power line developments in the area.



Land Stewardship at our Headquarters Property

Our headquarters site in Wisconsin is set in a sprawling and beautiful landscape of woodland, wetland, and prairie. Previously farmland, most of the land has been restored to a natural state as part of the Ecosystem Restoration Program that we initiated on our site back in 1979. Various experimental plantings have provided valuable information on restoration techniques, and our site now serves as a model for other restoration efforts.

But land stewardship requires continuous attention, including annual prescribed burning and management of exotic invasive species. One of our major challenges is the control of black locust, an aggressive non-native tree species. In response to many years of concerted effort, the extent of black locust has been greatly diminished and native prairie species have flourished. This year we also established a native planting for pollinator insect species on our property.



Photo by K.S. Gopi Sundar

Sarus Cranes – A Flagship for Wetland Conservation on Agricultural Lands

The vulnerable Sarus Crane is spread out across the agricultural fields and wetlands of South Asia, where we have been observing and studying them over the past five years. A clear vision of how to protect them has now emerged, and is detailed in our new strategy, *Securing the Long-term Future of 1,000 Breeding Pairs of Sarus Cranes in South Asia*. This strategy covers a key portion of the Sarus Crane breeding population in the region, targeting key breeding grounds and several agricultural wetlands where cranes occur in large non-breeding flocks. Our field associates, our eyes and ears on the ground across the SarusScape, are having an increasingly important conservation impact. In Haryana District, for example, our field assistant noticed illegal removal of water using pumps and pipes from a small marsh where Sarus Cranes were nesting. He alerted the village council, which asked the farmer to delay taking water from the marsh until the end of the nesting period. These actions are raising a new level of awareness for how to safeguard the eggs and nests of Sarus Cranes and other birds, while maintaining the traditional agricultural practices essential to livelihoods in the region.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



Richard Beilfuss and Tran Triet with the Minister of Environment Cambodia. Photo by Phalen Leav

Building a Strong Coalition in the Mekong River Basin

In Southeast Asia, the world's tallest flying bird, the Sarus Crane, is both a key indicator species for conservation and a flagship for saving vital wetlands. Our Southeast Asia Program has been working extensively with conservation organizations, universities, and government agencies in the Mekong countries to build a strong coalition for the conservation of Sarus Cranes and wetlands where cranes live. In July 2016, ICF and the Ministry of Environment Cambodia, in collaboration with Birdlife International, Wildfowl & Wetland Trust and Wildlife Conservation Society, convened a workshop on Sarus Crane conservation in Cambodia and Vietnam in Phnom Penh Cambodia. All major conservation NGOs involved in Sarus Crane research and conservation in Cambodia and Vietnam attended the workshop and presented their data and information, some of which was accumulated over more than two decades. Together, we assessed current and future threats to cranes and discussed strategic planning to identify and prioritize conservation actions needed for the next ten years. Dr. Richard Beilfuss and Dr. Tran Triet also met with H.E Say Samal, Minister of Environment Cambodia, who pledged strong support for our work in Cambodia.



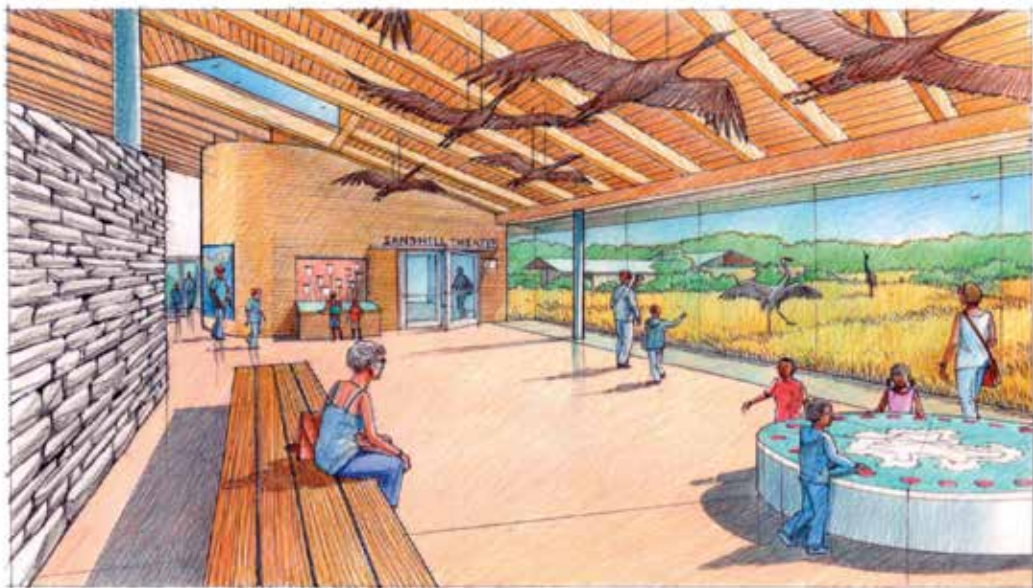
Crane kite and puppet performance by Heather Henson.

Black-necked Crane Network Meeting in China

Key goals for our work in China are the expansion in size and range of the three most important Black-necked Crane populations, and raising awareness for cranes and our work through education and networking. To that end, we co-organized the Black-necked Crane Network meeting at Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve in western China in August 2016. Over 90 managers, researchers, and educators attended from a range of provinces and autonomous regions in China, including

Guizhou, Yunnan, Sichuan, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Gansu and Tibet, as well as the U.S and India.

The program featured sessions on conservation education, management of landscapes in support of Black-necked Cranes, and crane research and monitoring. Educators from schools, reserves, and NGOs shared their experiences with eco camps, school curricula, teacher training, visitor programs, and public outreach. The meeting was supported by Heather Henson and the U.S. Forest Service.



A New Gateway to Crane Conservation

Our headquarters in Baraboo is a gateway for visitors to better understand and support our global conservation impact. In 2016, we began an exciting new master planning process with an experienced zoo architecture firm to enhance the visitor experience by more strongly connecting our cranes on exhibit to the wild places and working landscapes they depend on around the world. Our renovation will include a new Visitor and Education Center connected to a stunning Sandhill Crane exhibit, a new “Cranes and Culture” exhibit area, renovation of other outdated crane enclosures into naturalistic exhibits for our remaining crane species, and much needed office space for our hard-working staff. We will break ground in 2018, and look forward to the grand opening of our vibrant new site by 2020. We are grateful to the Dohmen Family Foundation, Derse Foundation, The Walbridge Fund, Ltd., The Buchanan Family Foundation, and Rushmore Foundation for enabling this giant leap forward.



Photo by Deb Johnson

Training Whooping Crane Ambassadors

In order to secure safe passage for Whooping Cranes throughout their long migration routes, the International Crane Foundation has developed strategic partnerships all along their flyway. As with our global conservation work, our outreach work is also based on strong science. We have partnered with experts in Human Dimensions of Wildlife at Auburn University in Alabama, and Purdue University in Indiana. These are states where Whooping Cranes have been illegally shot. Both of these universities have secured funding to study human attitudes toward Whooping Cranes. Using this information, we designed better awareness campaigns, and partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies,

Audubon groups, local businesses, and other passionate craniacs to make our outreach programs more effective. Planning is underway to host workshops designed to develop Whooping Crane Ambassadors throughout the eastern flyway. We will continue to work with these and other individuals to raise awareness about Whooping Cranes in communities that share their landscapes.



IMPROVING LOCAL LIVELIHOODS

The Farmer's Association organized local people to remove invasive aquatic plants at Cao Hai Nature Reserve.

Win-Win Conservation Solutions at Cao Hai in China

Cao Hai National Nature Reserve is an important wintering area for Black-necked Cranes in southwest China. Black-necked Cranes are listed as Vulnerable to extinction by IUCN. To address growing conservation challenges between impoverished farmers and wildlife, we played a key role in establishing the Cao Hai Farmer Conservation and Development Association in 2008, and we continue to provide on-going support for its activities.

The Association is a non-profit organization that supports integration of Cao Hai conservation with local community development to improve local people's livelihoods in a conservation-friendly way. In October 2016, the Farmer's Association held a meeting for its members at the nature reserve. Sixty-four farmer representatives, including 26 women, from 11 administrative villages attended, together with representatives from Cao Hai, Weining County Civil Affairs Bureau, and the International Crane Foundation. The Association has worked with the reserve and our team on various activities, including removing invasive species such as alligator weed, planting food for waterbirds, collecting garbage in the wetlands, initiating and monitoring community trust funds, renovating village drinking wells, constructing bio-gas tanks, and managing tuition support for village girls. We are pleased with nearly a decade's worth of progress, and are committed to the Farming Association's expanding role and success in win-win conservation solutions at Cao Hai.



Kong Lingcang, Assistant head of the Farmer's Association, visits a community trust fund group to help families with bookkeeping.



Beehives in Rwanda. Photo by Olivier Nsengimana

Our Conservation Agreements Are Working!

Conservation Agreements are negotiated benefit packages that local communities receive in return for their involvement in sustainable conservation activities. We are now using this model successfully across our community-based projects in East Africa, where people and endangered Grey Crowned Cranes depend on the same wetlands.

Around Rugezi Marsh in Rwanda, we developed beekeeping cooperatives. We provided beekeeping kits that included equipment, training, mentorship, and a market for the honey. The beekeepers assisted us with reducing the illegal crane trade, overharvesting, and grazing in the Marsh.

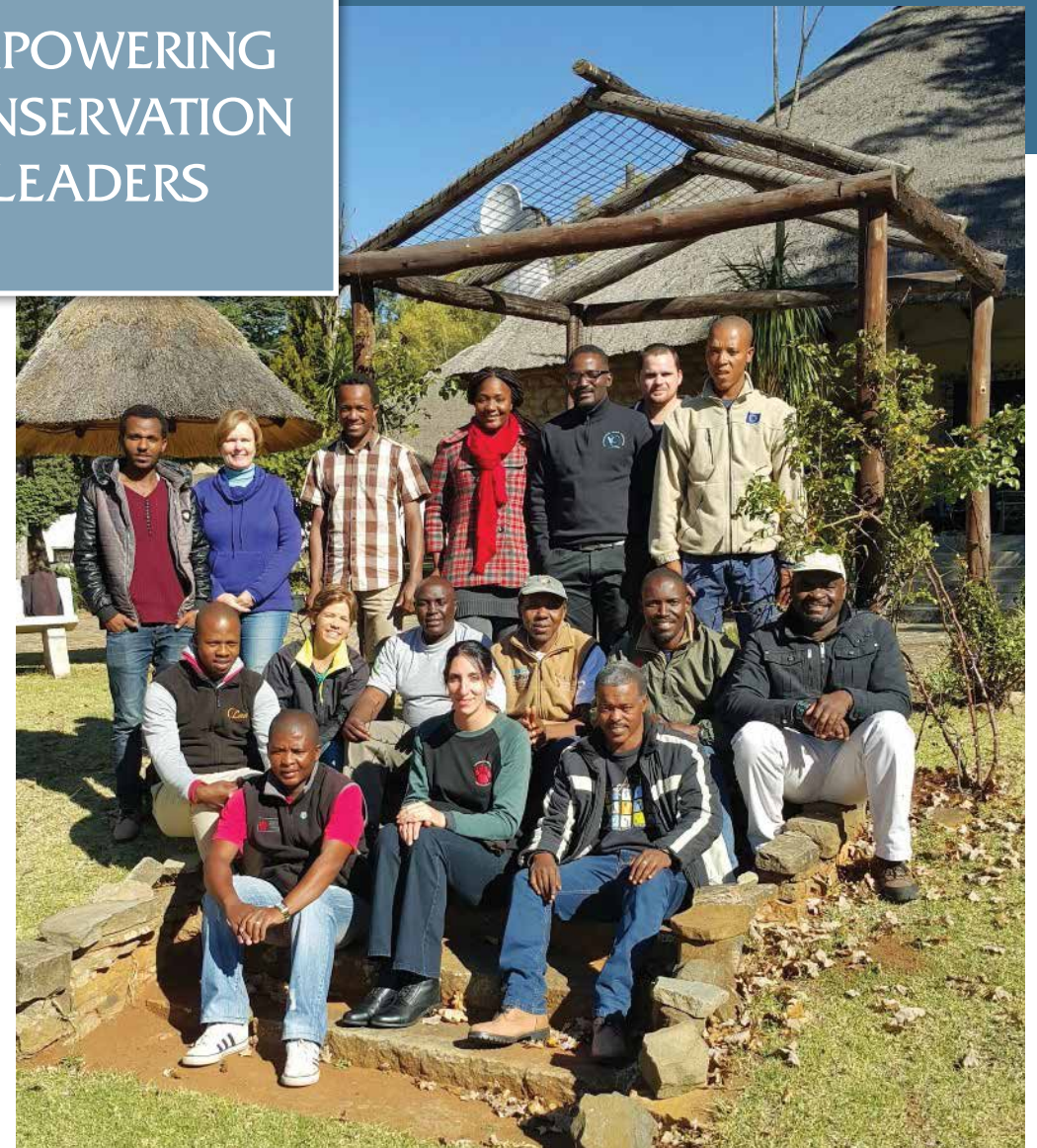
In southwestern Uganda, we provided credit to invest in livestock and other enhanced livelihood efforts in return for wetland restoration and crane custodianship efforts. Crane Custodians help prevent wetland disturbance that we hope will improve breeding productivity.

In western Kenya, springs used for daily water supply were protected from livestock and other encroachment, and dairy goats and beekeeping were exchanged for reducing negative impacts on the wetlands, and protecting breeding cranes. Thank you to The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and Frankfurt Zoological Society.



Spring source protection in Western Kenya. Photo by Osiman Mabhachi

EMPOWERING CONSERVATION LEADERS



Building a Great Team to Advance Our African Strategy

With 21 staff, 14 associates, and focused efforts in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia, our African team has grown considerably over the last year. In June 2016, we brought together 16 team members to develop monitoring protocols so we can evaluate our impact, share lessons from the field, and develop the foundation required for effective teamwork.

In East Africa, we are collaborating closely with the Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management in Rwanda, Nature Uganda, Community Action for Nature Conservation, and the Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group in Kenya. With our strong team now in place, we are well positioned to reduce the threats to Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes and to deepen our community-based conservation work for the benefit of cranes and people. We are grateful to the Dohmen Family Foundation for making this a reality.



Saving Grey Crowned Cranes in Rwanda is being distributed throughout Rwanda to inspire children to protect Rwanda's wildlife. Photo by Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders

Africa's Grey Crowned Cranes are experiencing a dramatic population decline across their range in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and elsewhere, due in large part to the removal of cranes from the wild for pets. Poachers often enlist the help of children in taking cranes from the wild as eggs and chicks. Our Education and Design Department collaborated with the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association and Endangered Wildlife Trust to create an engaging comic book that speaks directly to these children about the importance of their cranes and wetlands. *Saving Grey Crowned Cranes* follows the work of a Rwandan wildlife veterinarian, Dr. Olivier Nsengimana, as he helps a family surrender their captive Grey Crowned Crane for repatriation to the wild. As the children in the story learn more about Dr. Olivier's efforts, they become advocates for Grey Crowned Cranes and other vulnerable wildlife in Rwanda.

AZA Award for Whooping Crane Efforts

Strong partnerships are essential for the fragile recovery of endangered Whooping Cranes. In September, our staff was recognized by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums with the North America Conservation Award for our work on Whooping Crane reintroduction along with our partners, Calgary Zoo, San Antonio Zoo and Audubon Zoo. This award is very competitive and we are honored to be recognized by our peers.



We Can't Do It Without Interns!

The Whooping Crane outreach program depends on interns to reach a wide audience to raise awareness about the plight of Whooping Cranes. Our Conservation Education interns learn about the ecology of these endangered cranes and how to deliver inspirational programs to the public at events throughout their range. Audiences include school children, hunters, farmers, and nature lovers. Over the season, we saw our interns become more confident in their public speaking skills as they raised awareness for Whooping Cranes and the work of the International Crane Foundation. Other dedicated interns are essential to the management of our captive crane population, to our field research efforts in Wisconsin, and the restoration of our beautiful site. Many of these talented individuals will go on to become conservation leaders for other organizations around the country and beyond.



A New Team in Myanmar

Myanmar, home to an important population of Sarus Cranes, recently emerged from international isolation. We are collaborating with Yangon, Mandalay, and Yadanabon universities to strengthen our newly-established Myanmar Program. The Myanmar Crane Team has been conducting regular Sarus crane population and habitat surveys in the Irrawaddy Delta. Initial results of the surveys showed that Sarus cranes, and many other waterbirds, are using a special kind of rice paddy, one that is often low-lying, flooded longer, and planted with one crop of rice per year. This type of rice field may disappear soon in the near future as farmers are switching to a more intensive rice farming system. There is an urgent need to preserve this type of crane-friendly rice farming system in Irrawaddy Delta. During 2016-2017, the Southeast Asia Program received generous financial support from Disney Conservation Fund.

The Myanmar Crane Team conducts regular Sarus Crane population and habitat surveys in the Irrawaddy Delta. Photo by Tran Triet



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE FOR POLICY AND ACTION

White-naped Cranes often forage on croplands during migration. Photo by Zhang Jianjun

Strengthening Protection for White-naped Cranes

The western population of White-naped Cranes has declined from 3,000 to as few as 1,000 to 1,500 birds in just 15 years. Since 2013, we have worked with the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center (WSCC) of Mongolia to track White-naped Cranes on their migration south from Mongolian breeding grounds. We traced migration routes, identified important stopover sites, and documented threats including agricultural poisons.

To address these threats we brought together conservationists from all six countries that are home to White-naped Cranes. More than 50 participants including government officials, reserve managers, scientists, non-profits, students, and donors exchanged ideas and debated conservation strategies. On this remote Mongolian steppe, we were joined by the U.S. Forest Service, which provides funding and technical expertise for our cooperation with WSCC, and by the Hanns Seidel Foundation. At the Khurkh-Khuiten River Valleys, which provide critical crane nesting habitat, we met with local herders and government leaders who proudly supported establishment of a county protected area.

Justice for Whooping Cranes

In October 2016, the man who shot two endangered Whooping Cranes in Texas pled guilty to one count of a Class A misdemeanor for the taking of a Whooping Crane under the Endangered Species Act. We coordinated a campaign to inform the judge, district attorney, and public about the value and significance of Whooping Cranes to the people of Texas. The judge ordered \$25,850 in restitution, 200 hours of community service (the most ever ordered by this court), the maximum of five years' probation, surrender of all firearms, and a five year hunting license revocation in all states. The penalties were ground breaking for Texas. The case will serve as an example for future penalties and

demonstrates that our public awareness campaign was effective.



Photo by Ted Thousand



Photo by K.S. Gopi Sundar

Monitoring Sarus Cranes

Our field associates covered nearly 40,000 miles during our seasonal monitoring of Sarus Cranes and 18 additional waterbird species in lowland Nepal and India. We tracked the breeding success of over 750 Sarus Crane pairs, including the first estimates of breeding success in two new areas. We located over 50 sites of non-breeding Sarus flocks, identified and mapped over 30,000 nests in heronries, and completed mapping over 45,000 wetlands. We began analyzing this volume of information to understand the importance of wetlands, remnant trees, and human habitation to Sarus Crane breeding, as well as their importance to 18 other waterbird species.



Threatened Jewel of the Sahel

Black Crowned Cranes were once widespread and common across the Sahel, extending from Senegal on the West African coast to Ethiopia in the east. In recent decades, however, the species has declined and fragmented into scattered and widely separated populations across their former range. Sadly, much of their current distribution falls within areas now under war-torn areas where safe access to the birds is impossible. Fortunately, the Senegal River Delta and Casamance in Senegal, two key sites for Black Crowned Cranes, fall outside of insurgent-held areas. In November, we visited Black Crowned Crane nesting sites in these areas and explored opportunities for furthering conservation efforts and partnerships in the region. Very little is known about the species and its ecological requirements. Increased understanding of their basic biology and threats will be critical to guide future conservation efforts. Thank you to the Dohmen Family Foundation for supporting important scientific explorations like this across Africa.

Idrissa Ndiaye discovers a nest with three Black Crowned Crane eggs. Photo by Rich Beilfuss

It Takes Science to Secure an Endangered Species

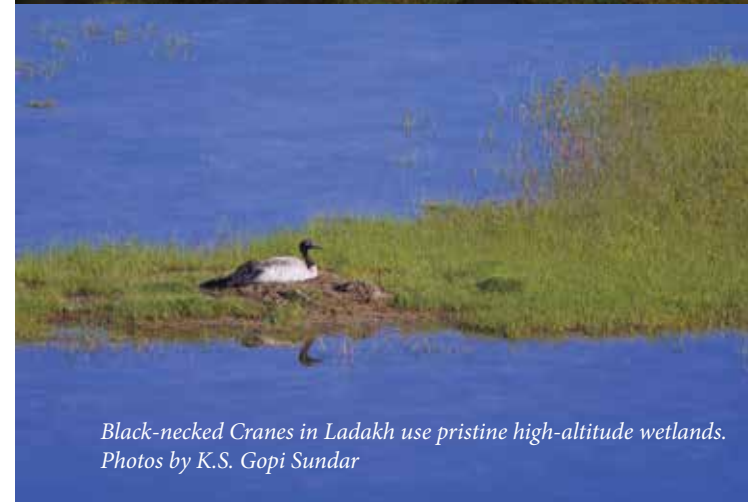
Our Texas Whooping Crane Program is dedicated to increasing the scientific knowledge that will improve our recovery efforts of the last natural flock of endangered Whooping Cranes numbering just over 300 birds. Our research and monitoring programs examine Whooping Crane habitat and document the response of wintering Whooping Cranes to the conditions and availability of that habitat. The cranes responded favorably to an abundance of freshwater, blue crabs, and wolfberry during the winter of 2016-17. How do we know this? We trained volunteers to maintain field cameras at remote freshwater ponds, and then reviewed the resulting images to measure crane activity. We collaborated with local eco-tour boat captains and on-board observers who used mapping programs to record crane locations, behavior, and social groups. We also collected water quality, crab, and wolfberry data throughout the winter. Assessing all this information creates a clearer picture of what the birds need to survive and increase in number. We are grateful to The Brown Foundation for supporting this work.



Photo by Mike Sloat



Shivona Bhojwani interacts with villagers in Gondia district during her search on Sarus and other birds in Maharashtra.



Black-necked Cranes in Ladakh use pristine high-altitude wetlands. Photos by K.S. Gopi Sundar

Science for Conservation in South Asia

We are providing important supervision and support for students in the “SarusScape” of South Asia to conduct scientific research important for the management and conservation of Sarus Cranes and their wetlands. Two of our students from Nepal published the first paper to highlight the importance of Nepal’s agricultural landscape to waterbirds of conservation concern.

Another student, Shivona Bhojwani, successfully completed and defended her thesis entitled, *Aquatic vegetation as a predictor of waterbird guild abundances in agricultural wetlands of Gondia district, Maharashtra* at the National Centre for Biological Diversity in India. This work focused on the impact of artisanal and commercial fishing on wetlands important for Sarus Cranes, and is the first such study of its kind in the region to explore the impacts of village-level decisions on wetland use and waterbird diversity. Ramachandran completed the first ever study on the impacts of illegal hunting on waterbird communities that depend on unprotected wetlands in India’s agricultural landscapes, and the resulting published paper provides clear evidence that illegal hunting is having very serious impacts on waterbird communities and populations.

Assessing Black-necked Crane Status in the Remote Himalayas of India

Working with our colleagues at the Nature Conservation Foundation, we completed a two-week long survey in June 2016 to understand the current status of Black-necked Cranes in Ladakh. Staying in tiny villages, traversing high passes that reached over 16,000 feet, we documented cranes in 13 locations, including one nest at 15,000 feet. These high-altitude wetlands are primed to be affected by climate change, and by increased grazing pressure, and we are developing a wide network of local herdsmen to help us track the fate of breeding cranes in this stunning yet harsh landscape.

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Karen and Joseph* Branch
Kathleen and Robert* B. Brumder
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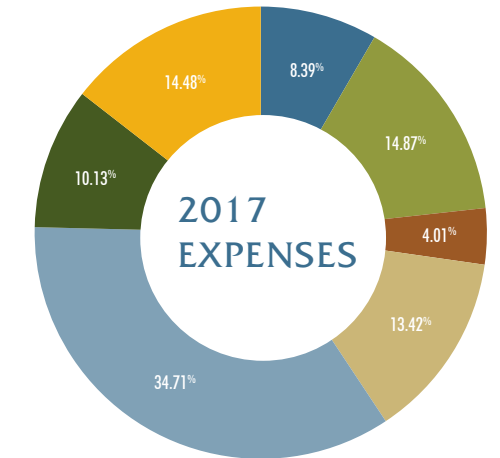
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INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ended March 31, 2017 and 2016

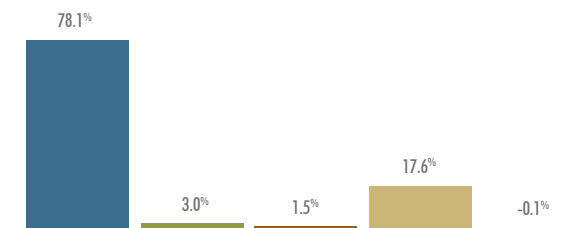
2017 2016

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,022,043	\$2,642,395
Certificates of deposit	\$250,770	\$250,274
Accounts receivable	\$95,967	\$21,669
Grants receivable	\$-	\$-
Unconditional promises to give, current portion	\$1,693,556	\$1,744,747
Inventories	\$40,549	\$50,560
Prepaid expenses	\$76,461	\$92,786
Total Current Assets	\$5,179,346	\$4,802,431
Property And Equipment, Net		
	\$4,598,948	\$4,380,775
Other Assets		
Unconditional promises to give, long term portion	\$3,630,205	\$685,110
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts	\$830,878	\$809,458
Assets restricted to endowments	\$3,778,811	\$2,841,800
Long-term investments	\$16,257,181	\$15,185,220
Cash restricted for capital improvements	\$3,452,155	\$2,185,470
Other receivables	\$42,987	\$-
Total Other Assets	\$27,992,217	\$21,707,058
Total Assets	\$37,770,511	\$30,890,264
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$199,939	\$112,955
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	\$248,704	\$241,381
Deferred revenue	\$40,675	\$48,553
Total Current Liabilities	\$489,318	\$402,889
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$19,606,294	\$18,492,706
Temporarily restricted	\$13,873,797	\$8,631,798
Permanently restricted	\$3,801,102	\$3,362,871
Total Net Assets	\$37,281,193	\$30,487,375
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$37,770,511	\$30,890,264



Africa	\$532,684	8.39%
East Asia	\$944,618	14.87%
South and Southeast Asia	\$254,410	4.01%
North America	\$852,196	13.42%
ICF Center for Conservation Leadership	\$2,204,719	34.71%
General & Administrative	\$643,294	10.13%
Fundraising	\$919,820	14.48%

Total Program Services	\$4,788,627	75.39%
Total Supporting Activities	\$1,563,114	24.61%
Total Expenses	\$6,351,741	100.00%



Contributions and Grants	\$10,261,743	78.1%
Memberships	\$389,111	3.0%
Special Events, Net	Included in Other	
Sales and Tour Income	\$191,931	1.5%
Investment Income (Loss)	\$2,315,597	17.6%
Other	\$(12,823)	-0.1%
Total Revenue	\$13,145,559	100.0%



The International Crane Foundation works worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways on which they depend.

International Crane Foundation

E11376 Shady Lane Road
Baraboo, WI 53913 USA
608-356-9462

www.savingcranes.org



Photo by Zongren Yang. Cover photo by Ted Thousand

