



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

April 2018-March 2019



INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

WHY CRANES?

Good question – here’s why

Cranes unite us.

The universal appeal of cranes as symbols for conservation brings people together and inspires enthusiastic action to resolve broader conservation challenges that matter deeply to everyone. Cranes are international ambassadors for peace and goodwill and serve as a flagship species for some of the most important places on Earth. Together, we can find new pathways to sustain our water, land, and livelihoods.

Help us save cranes and the amazing places where cranes dance!



Photo by Pan Shengyu

Cover photo of Siberian Crane by Zhou Hai Yan

It was a great year for cranes and the International Crane Foundation. On the following pages, we are delighted to share the results we are achieving for cranes, wetlands, and communities around the world.

In East Asia, we recorded record numbers of *Critically Endangered* Siberian Cranes on their 3,000-mile flyway from the Russian Arctic to southeastern China. These rare birds are making a big comeback thanks in large part to the improved wetland management practices we’ve introduced in the region and at Poyang Lake—healthier wetlands benefit threatened Red-crowned, White-naped, and Hooded Cranes too.

To secure Sarus Cranes across their range from South Asia to Australia, we led our 15th annual training session of the Mekong Wetland University Network, building strong local capacity to manage and restore wetlands that are vital to the world’s tallest flying bird. Our teams in India and Nepal tracked more than 800 pairs of Sarus Cranes to understand better how people, agriculture, and wildlife can co-exist so harmoniously in this densely populated region.

In East Africa, we entered into new Conservation Agreements for the vital *dambos*, shallow wetland complexes, that sustain cranes in the agricultural landscapes of Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Under these agreements, rural communities commit to protecting Grey Crowned Cranes and other biodiversity on their farmlands in exchange for meaningful investments in their livelihoods, health, and education.

On the great floodplains of southern Africa, Wattled Crane numbers continued to increase, reaching their highest numbers in more than 30 years on the Kafue Flats in Zambia. We engaged local communities in restoring vast areas of the flats, clearing hundreds of hectares of invasive shrubs and generating vital income used for their education, shelter, and food security. As a result, endangered Kafue Lechwe, Wattled Cranes, and many other species are returning to this part of the flats.

In North America, the naturally occurring flock of Whooping Cranes that migrates between Canada and Texas topped 500 individuals for the first time in over a century—bringing us more than halfway to our goal of at least 1,000 individuals in the wild. Our efforts to reintroduce two self-sustaining flocks of Whooping Cranes took a big step forward, too. A record five Whooping Crane chicks successfully migrated with their families from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to the southeastern U.S. and another five new chicks fledged from nests in Louisiana.

And at our headquarters in Wisconsin, we made excellent progress with renovations that will soon transform the visitor experience, deeply connecting visitors to the fifteen species of cranes worldwide, the staff working hard to secure them, and the conservation opportunities and challenges we face.

We hope you share our pride in these and many other successes you’ve helped us achieve. Your support makes possible our efforts to resolve threats to cranes, ensure healthy landscapes, bring people together, improve livelihoods, empower future conservation leaders, take action based on science, and restore cranes to the wild.

Please 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,

Richard Beilfuss
President & CEO

Urban Lehner
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Impact by the Numbers!

By working strategically with partners around the world, we are able to have tremendous impact for cranes and their landscapes. On the following pages are impact highlights from April 2018 to March 2019.

Our work is focused on **7** key strategies

RESOLVING
THREATS TO
CRANES

ENSURING
HEALTHY
LANDSCAPES

BRINGING
PEOPLE
TOGETHER

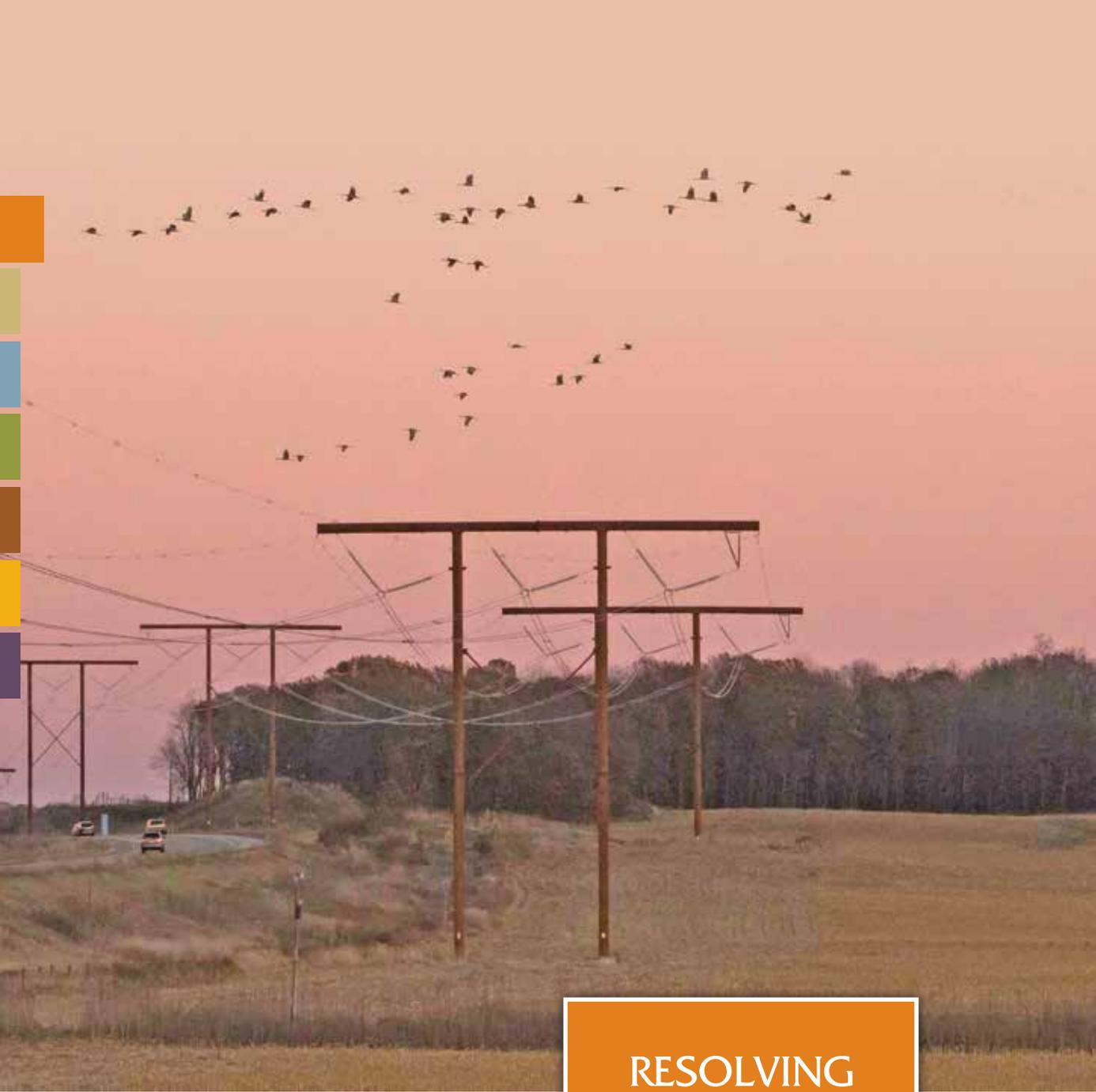
IMPROVING
LOCAL
LIVELIHOODS

EMPOWERING
FUTURE LEADERS

ACTION BASED
ON SCIENCE

RESTORING
CRANES TO
THE WILD





RESOLVING THREATS TO CRANES



Recorded **1,140** Endangered Red-crowned Cranes wintering in DMZ area – the highest number ever recorded there

34 new Crane Custodians monitoring Grey Crowned Cranes to enhance breeding success in Kabale, Uganda.

Working with **4** states on stricter punishments for the illegal shooting of *Endangered* Whooping Cranes



Over **200** kilometers of power lines surveyed to establish mortality rates and hotspots for the collision-prone Blue Cranes in the Western Cape of South Africa



4,550 *Critically Endangered* Siberian Cranes were counted at stopover sites in China – higher than the previous high count of **3,951**

Signed Memorandum of Understanding at Cheorwon, South Korea for future cooperation to protect **4,000** White-naped and **1,000** Red-crowned Cranes staging and wintering along the DMZ



Cranes in the Classroom patrons rescued **2** illegally captured crane chicks and re-united them with their parents at South Kiruruma Wetland, Uganda

34 priority stopover sites for migratory cranes identified and monitored by our team in China

Removed **526** obsolete crab traps from coastal waters in the core wintering range of Whooping Cranes in Texas to increase blue crab populations, an important food source



ENSURING
HEALTHY
LANDSCAPES



Guo Yumin



41% of the area in the Kafue Flats infested with invasive *Mimosa pigra* cleared by early 2019

1,200,000 acres of core Siberian Crane breeding habitat nominated as a Russian Federation National Park

Conducted prescribed burns on **83** acres of native prairie, savanna, and woodland habitats on our headquarters' acreage and managed over **92%** of our 260-acre site for exotic invasive species

8 Conservation Agreements signed with **8** cooperatives in Rwanda to conserve **6,735** hectares of wetland

11,300 acres of reed marsh and grassland added to crane core zone at Xianghai National Nature Reserve using China's Wetland Ecological Compensation Fund



100,000 indigenous tree seedlings produced and distributed to **40** farmers and **10** schools for wetland restoration in Kenya

Over **20** hectares of the Mugandu Wetland in Kabale, Uganda secured for conservation through community negotiations



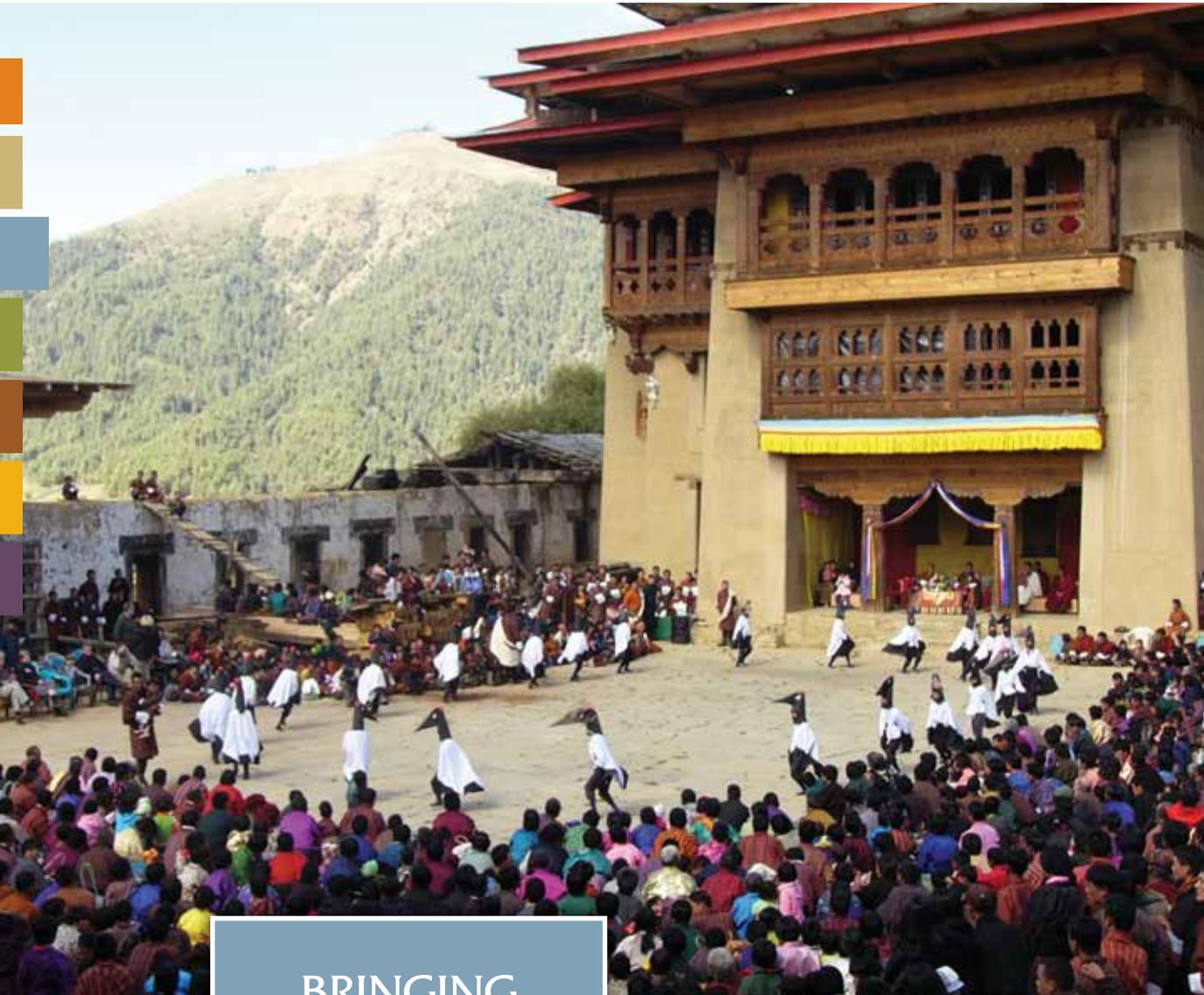
Installed **1** solar unit at the Wetland Center in India where we are training farmers in best management practices for Sarus Cranes



Over **750** species of flora and fauna documented in our demonstration restorations at our Headquarters



Tom Lynn



BRINGING
PEOPLE
TOGETHER



51,088 time-lapse photos documenting our site renovation progress as we create a more engaging visitor experience at our headquarters

22,573 visitors engaged in cranes and conservation at our headquarters in Wisconsin

9 regional leaders from our team on **3** continents and **6** countries convened in Wisconsin for team and skill-building workshops to focus on priorities and results in carrying out our mission

170 volunteers with **3,784** total hours logged

8,704 active members!



53,765 Facebook followers and 529,955 page views on our website from **194** countries

Engaged **6** community leaders in creating a conservation plan for Boyo Lake in Ethiopia

Our Africa team grew by **6** new professionals with a total of **23** permanent staff, **2** volunteers, and **6** research associates based in **7** countries in sub-Saharan Africa



Celebrated the opening of our new Rockport, Texas office **1** year after Hurricane Harvey destroyed the original office

Reached over **1,000,000** people in China and Russia through digital communications that champion cranes and wetlands



IMPROVING LOCAL LIVELIHOODS



Hired **150** local people in the Kafue Flats in Zambia to remove invasive *Mimosa pigra* plants – providing desperately needed income for school fees, home repairs, and food

2 freshwater springs were protected in Kingwal, Kenya serving more than **1,000** people, including schools and a dispensary

2,000 women in rural communities in Cambodia increased their household incomes from crane-conservation handicraft business



Convened **2nd** Fisheries Improvement Project workshop in China to improve the marketing of high-value fish that will benefit the local community, fish populations, and resident cranes and waterbirds



35 households of the Kibuga community group and **32** of Kyase community group in Uganda are actively supporting crane conservation at the Mugandu and South Kiruruma wetlands

70 liters of honey harvested by **18** beehive custodians in Kenya to increase household incomes



Over **100** families in Kabale District, Uganda participating in conservation actions in return for benefits on Conservation Agreements



Villages near crane marshes in Vietnam improved their incomes by sustainably producing **3,000** baskets each month for export by a fair-trade company

100 women from **3** women's groups learned dairy goat farming in Kenya to improve family income and reduce pressure on wetlands



200 farmers around Rugezi Marsh in Rwanda were trained in livestock fodder management to reduce harvesting marsh vegetation, and **559** households were supported through sustainable fodder production and nurseries

EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS



30 participants from **7** Asian countries attended our **14**th wetland training course organized by the Mekong Wetland University Network in Yunnan Province, China

400 children in extremely remote villages in northern

Cambodia attended fun Disney-sponsored crane and wetland education programs toward becoming future stewards



14 teachers attended our Nature Education Curriculum Development Workshop in Jiangxi Province and created a set of wetland and waterbird conservation curricula for primary school students



1,160 hours spent mentoring the next generation of conservation medicine practitioners

Over **80** students participated in **4** sessions of Black-necked Crane summer camps at Ruergai National Nature Reserve in China

3 primary schools are now participating in the *Cranes in the Classroom* activities in Kabale District, Uganda

Trained **25** new volunteers in China to monitor cranes, work on public awareness at nature reserves, and manage data

3,250 visitors and students at Poyang Lake viewed our new environmental education and display boards



Engaged over **17,000** people at **193** outreach events in **11** states in North America for Whooping and Sandhill Cranes

Provided environmental education programs to **1,200**

children and community members at Siberian Crane stopover and breeding areas in China



100 students and **25** families learned about cranes and wetlands in our International Nature Schools at Tianjin Binhai Wetland and Hulunbeir, Inner Mongolia



ACTION BASED ON SCIENCE



Daniel Dolpire

Flew **14** hours of aerial surveys over the Buluzi Plain in Angola and discovered **3** previously unrecorded populations of Wattled Cranes, including **2** breeding grounds

Presented storm surge impact study on Whooping Crane habitat after Hurricane Harvey to over **100** Texas coastal scientists

Completed climate change vulnerability assessment for **3** protected wetlands in the Mekong River Delta toward developing adaptation measures

15 Siberian Cranes marked with transmitters revealed a maximum migration duration of **32** hours with individuals flying up to **800** miles in one day



25 Blue Crane chicks were fitted with satellite trackers to understand how juveniles move and use landscapes of South Africa

Conducted aerial and ground surveys of **730** Wattled and **540** Grey Crowned Cranes at Liuwa Plains in Zambia – the only floodplain where these two species occur in big numbers together

27 breeding sites were actively monitored in the agricultural landscape of South Africa that supports most of the world's Blue Cranes



Monitored **78** Sarus Crane nests in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar to understand breeding success rates and threats

Discovered **12** new wetlands used by Sarus Cranes during the dry season in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar

Performed **6** field surgeries in Rwanda to improve the welfare of non-releasable Grey Crowned Cranes used for public education

Our field associates in India traversed **24,100** km



conducting surveys in one of the hottest summers that South Asia has experienced

Acquired **1** new LED laser to apply cutting-edge treatment to arthritic and aging cranes in our captive flock



Zheng Zhongjie



Daniel Dolpire



RESTORING
CRANES TO
THE WILD



Tom Lynn



Released **9** new Whooping Crane chicks into reintroduced populations

Banded and deployed transmitters on **14** reintroduced Whooping Cranes to understand how they are using the landscape

Provided **23,500** pounds of crane food for our captive flock



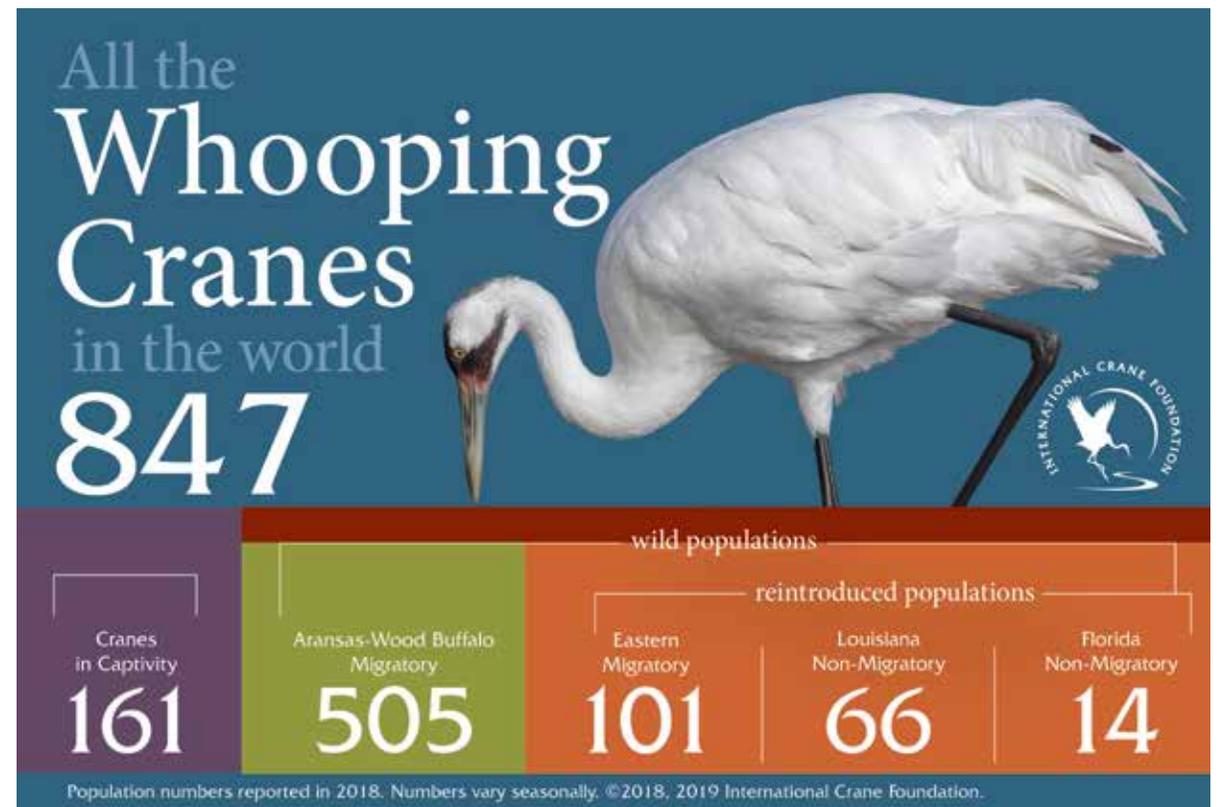
Rescued **6** eggs from nests of released Whooping Cranes that would have otherwise been lost



Cared for **159** rare eggs laid by our captive crane flock

Monitored **23** nests from **17** pairs of reintroduced Whooping Cranes

Monitored reintroduced Whooping Cranes in **12** U.S. states and **114** counties through our volunteer network, interns, and reports from the public





Groundbreaking for Our New Visitor Experience

In November 2018, we broke ground on our \$10M site renovation project. Construction crews graded the site, installed underground infrastructure, demolished outdated enclosures, and poured the foundation for our new welcome center. Mild temperatures enabled the team to make significant progress through the end of the year. To date, the project is on time and on budget for our planned re-opening in spring 2020. We are grateful to the many donors who supported our Capital Campaign to make this transformation possible.



Our Newsletter and Annual Report Win International Design Awards

The 2017 Summit International Awards creative competition drew more than 5,000 submissions from 24 countries in 18 major categories. The Board of Judges identified innovative and creative concepts, strong executions, and the ability to communicate and persuade. Our newsletter *The Bugle* won bronze and our Annual Report, silver.

Arthur A. Allen Award

In 2018, the prestigious Arthur A. Allen Award was presented by Cornell University to Dr. George



Archibald, Co-Founder of the International Crane Foundation. As a graduate student at Cornell, George studied the vocal and visual communications

of cranes. Realizing that many crane species were on the brink of extinction, he and fellow Cornell graduate student, Ron Sauey, went on to establish the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin.

Ajijaak on Turtle Island Performances

The International Crane Foundation was delighted to host our Board Director Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry *Ajijaak* extravaganza. The puppet and dance spectacle follows a young Whooping Crane separated from her parents and forced to experience her first migration alone.



Celebrating 30 Years of Achievement in Southeast Asia!

From our first expedition to the Mekong Delta, Vietnam in 1988, we have helped establish and manage six national protected areas and implemented acclaimed conservation-friendly livelihood and leadership projects for people and wildlife.

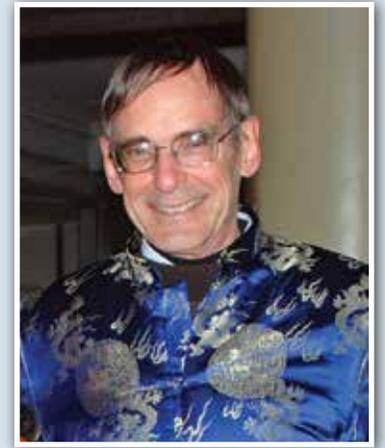


Publications

Notable publications for this fiscal period include the publication of the book, *Cranes and Agriculture*, the *Proceedings of the Fourteenth North American Crane Workshop*, and many of our staff contributed chapters to the new *Whooping Cranes* book.

East African Team Receives Award for Championing Conservation Agreements

Our East African team received an award from Conservation International for championing and scaling up Conservation Agreements in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. The award was given during the Global Conservation Stewards Program Network Meeting held in the Kruger National Park, South Africa.



James T. Harris

Those who witness crane flocks discover an ancient creature's response to a crowded and changing world.

Our challenge is to rediscover old balances and create new ones, linking cranes, the land, and people.

—Jim Harris

We lost a dear friend in 2018 with the passing of Jim Harris, our former Director of Public Education, President & CEO, and most recently, Senior Vice President of Asia. Jim passed away on Sept. 19, 2018. During his 34 years with the International Crane Foundation, Jim touched countless lives. He inspired many with his fascination for the natural world, his passion for learning, and his selfless interest in the welfare of cranes and people.

International Crane Foundation Annual Report Donor List

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\$100,000 - \$500,000

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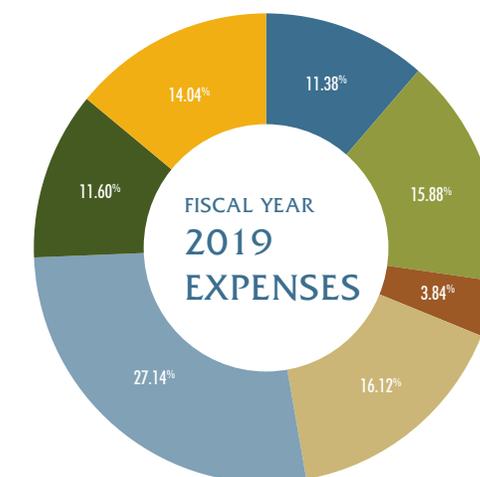
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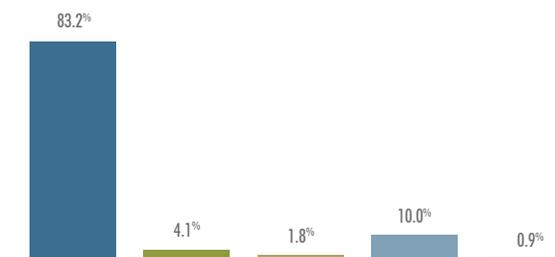
Fiscal Years ended March 31, 2019 and March 31, 2018

ASSETS	2019	2018
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,378,920	\$4,243,784
Accounts receivable	\$43,450	\$61,000
Unconditional promises to give, current portion	\$2,431,827	\$1,833,205
Inventories	\$49,472	\$42,641
Prepaid expenses	\$148,959	\$93,585
Total Current Assets	\$7,052,628	\$6,274,215
Property And Equipment, Net	\$4,568,525	\$4,479,954
Other Assets		
Unconditional promises to give, long-term portion	\$2,225,184	\$2,980,968
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts	\$816,152	\$807,711
Investments, restricted to endowments	\$3,807,656	\$3,805,156
Investments, other	\$19,647,099	\$17,088,187
Cash and Investments restricted for capital improvements	\$3,772,698	\$3,846,912
Construction in Progress	\$3,552,288	\$731,451
Other receivables	\$36,657	\$46,435
Total Other Assets	\$33,857,734	\$29,306,820
Total Assets	\$45,478,887	\$40,060,989
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$699,039	\$193,960
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	\$343,219	\$265,982
Deferred revenue	\$140,752	\$118,454
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,183,010	\$578,396
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$22,504,789	\$19,904,027
With Donor Restrictions	\$21,791,088	\$19,578,566
Total Net Assets	\$44,295,877	\$39,482,593
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$45,478,887	\$40,060,989



● Africa	\$846,980	11.38%
● East Asia	\$1,181,764	15.88%
● South and Southeast Asia	\$285,587	3.84%
● North America	\$1,198,960	16.12%
● ICF Center for Conservation Leadership	\$2,018,734	27.14%
● General & Administrative	\$863,256	11.60%
● Fundraising	\$1,044,256	14.04%

Total Program Services	\$5,532,025	74.36%
Total Supporting Activities	\$1,907,512	25.64%
Total Expenses	\$7,439,537	100.00%



● Contributions and Grants	\$10,194,867	83.2%
● Memberships	\$501,826	4.1%
● Sales and Tour Income	\$225,098	1.8%
● Investment Income (Loss)	\$1,225,899	10.0%
● Other	\$105,131	0.9%
Total Revenue	\$12,252,821	100.0%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Fiscal Year-end March 2019

PRESIDENT & CEO

Richard Beilfuss
Madison, WI

CHAIR

Urban Lehner
Newport, OR

VICE CHAIR

Jeanne Prochnow
Milwaukee, WI

TREASURER

Roberta Asher
River Forest, IL

SECRETARY

Robert Dohmen
Mequon, WI

CO-FOUNDER

George Archibald*
Baraboo, WI

Steven Becker
Glen Ellyn, IL

Larry Benjamin
Lake Forest, IL

James Brumm*
New York, NY

Susan Carnahan
Menlo Park, CA

A. Sidney England
Davis, CA

Steve Euller
Minneapolis, MN

Ann Hamilton
Houston, TX

Mirabel Helme
United Kingdom

Heather Henson
New York, NY

Eleanor Hoagland
New York, NY

Robert Hoguet
New York, NY

Paul King
Vancouver, WA

Micaela Levine
Milwaukee, WI

Nancy Merrill
Hayden, CO

Patti Brash McKeithan
River Hills, WI

Margery Nicolson
Pacific Palisades, CA

Hugh O'Halloran
Jackson, WY

Paul Robbins
Madison, WI

Jason Sauey
Baraboo, WI

Jennifer Perkins Speers
Salt Lake City, UT

Jeffrey Sundberg
Libertyville, IL

OTHER OFFICERS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Charles Gibbons
Middleton, WI

VP INTERNATIONAL – EAST ASIA

Spike Millington
Baraboo, WI

VP INTERNATIONAL – AFRICA

Kerryn Morrison
Modderfontein, South Africa

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Kim Smith
Baraboo, WI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Joseph Branch*
Brookfield, WI

Gerd Muehlelehner
North Freedom, WI

Margery Nicolson
Pacific Palisades, CA

Nancy O'Donnell
Saukville, WI

Regina Phelps
San Francisco, CA

Harry Peterson
Middleton, WI

Diane Ridders
Madison, WI

Kathleen D. Ryan
Milwaukee, WI

Donald Sauey
Ocala, FL

Victoria Shaw
New York, NY

Richard Steeves
Madison, WI

Ireene Sullivan
Mequon, WI

Ann Tisdale
Shorewood, WI

Carl-Albrecht von Treuenfels
Germany

Timothy Tuff
Atlanta, GA

Sandra Whitmore
Libertyville, IL

Virginia Wolfe
Madison, WI

Belinda Wright
India

Joseph Branch*
Milwaukee, WI

Robert Brumder
Milwaukee, WI

William Conway
New Rochelle, NY

Leslie Coolidge
Barrington Hills, IL

Jane Dana
North Freedom, WI

Richard "Dick" Dana
North Freedom, WI

John Day
New York, NY

Judy Derse
Oconomowoc, WI

Thomas Donnelley, II
Chicago, IL

Samuel Evans
Seattle, WA

Richard Fox
Winnetka, IL

Nina Griswold
Hobe Sound, FL

Forrest Hartmann
Baraboo, WI

Hall Healy*
Glencoe, IL

Thomas Hoffmann
Gambier, OH

Charles Jahn
LaPorte, IN

Mark Lefebvre
Madison, WI

Lalise Mason
Houston, TX

Nancy Mathews
South Burlington, VT

Janet McKenna



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

International Crane Foundation

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