



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

April 2022-March 2023



INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO AND BOARD DIRECTOR

This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary – a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our landmark achievements and lessons learned from a half-century of conservation action. The International Crane Foundation works worldwide to *save cranes*, and it's no small undertaking—especially for the most endangered cranes and the myriad threats they face. But so much of our mission is about working *through cranes* to solve big conservation challenges that matter to all of us—threats to our land and water, to our livelihoods, and to our climate.

For 50 years, the International Crane Foundation has championed courageous acts of crane conservation. Working hand-in-hand with our colleagues in Russia and China despite the tense political divisions that separate our countries, we spearheaded the recovery of the *Critically Endangered* Siberian Crane from near-extinction to more than 5000 birds in the wild today. We engaged with the poorest community members at Cao Hai in western China to improve their livelihoods and reduce farming pressure on the wetlands they share with Black-necked Cranes. To save the vanishing Eastern Sarus Crane, we joined forces with our former adversary, Vietnam, to restore the last remaining wetlands of the Mekong Delta for wildlife and people.

In Africa, we hosted the first post-Apartheid gathering of crane and wetland conservationists across the entire continent, forging friendships and partnerships that continue to this day. We engaged

with operators of some of the world's biggest hydropower dams to secure downstream water releases for cranes, other wildlife, and the people who depend on these waters for their fishing, farming, livestock, household needs, and much more. We worked with governments to establish new *Wetlands of International Importance* under the Ramsar Convention. We worked with mining companies to stop damaging mines, power companies to reroute dangerous power lines, traders to reduce illegal trade, and farmers to reduce crop damage and peaceably coexist with cranes. We put communities at the center of conservation everywhere we work.

Here at home in the United States, our 1973 birth year coincided with the birth of the Endangered Species Act, and we've championed the recovery of the Endangered Whooping Crane ever since. From pioneering the captive-rearing and reintroduction of Whooping Cranes back to the wild to securing water and land for the last remaining wild Whooping Cranes that winter in Texas, we've been an innovative leader and partner-of-choice for all who care about the future of these beautiful creatures.

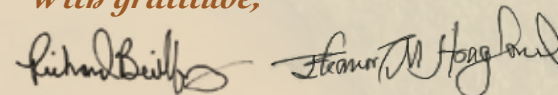
As you read in these pages some of the many highlights of the past year, we put a special focus on the persistence and ingenuity of our team and our partners who work “boots on the ground” to save cranes and so much more. We also shout out our deepest conservation allies, the communities of everyday people—crane neighbors—who work with

us so bravely to preserve and protect the habitats they share with these magnificent birds.

You'll learn about farmers taking risks to adopt climate-friendly, wildlife-friendly farming, with support from innovative new long-term funding mechanisms like carbon trading. You'll learn about the surprising connections between family planning, safe water supply and sanitation, public health, livestock fodder, food security, sustainable livelihoods...and the future of Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes in East Africa. You'll learn about our ramped-up efforts to support farmers who support Sandhill Cranes and other wildlife on the agricultural lands of Wisconsin. And you'll learn what our partners and our interns are doing to inspire young people to take the first bold steps on their conservation journey.

During the past year, and for the past 50 years, we've been committed to a better future for cranes, people, and the wild places and working lands on which we all depend. Together with you, our members, donors, and supporters, we will continue to do so for the next 50 years and beyond. Thank you.

With gratitude,



Richard Beilfuss
President & CEO

Eleanor Hoagland
Chairman of the
Board of Directors

Who We Are

The International Crane Foundation works worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways on which they depend. The nonprofit organization is headquartered in Baraboo, Wisconsin, with offices and staff in China, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, South Africa and Texas. The International Crane Foundation works through strong partnerships with local organizations, governments, universities, businesses and others in these regions. More than 125 staff and associates work with a network of hundreds of specialists in over 50 countries on five continents. The International Crane Foundation unites people behind the charisma of cranes to inspire international cooperation, help improve people's livelihoods, and protect millions of acres of wetlands and grasslands on the five continents where cranes live.

At the Cutting Edge of Conservation Worldwide

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

23 landowners signed carbon offset contracts

320,000 acres covered (surpassing an initial target of 150,000 acres)

ZAR **64** million (US \$3.8 million) expected estimated earnings for the landowner group over four years with a further \$6.8 million expected earnings in 2027

The International Crane Foundation has worked at the cutting edge of conservation worldwide for 50 years. By working with excellent partners and being willing to learn and adapt, it's no surprise that we've come up with impressive new ways to reach our goals. Among our achievements in 2023, we entered the carbon trading market, testing a significant new mechanism for conservation in South Africa. We've deepened our work in climate-smart agriculture, and we celebrated the signing of a first-of-its-kind contract on the water trading market to protect Whooping Cranes on the Texas coast.

Sustaining Conservation Impact through Carbon Offsetting: the Drakensberg of South Africa

The stunning Drakensberg region of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Eastern Cape provinces in South Africa is home to three species of threatened cranes: Wattled, Blue, and



Bradley Gibbons/International Crane Foundation



Carbon offsetting is, in simple terms, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or an increase in carbon storage. The Drakensberg project uses carbon offsetting as a nature-based solution for climate change and as a sustainable finance mechanism to incentivize and support improved land management. The International Crane Foundation is helping landowners develop management practices that ensure measurable carbon sequestration (an offset) through improved land management such as the improved use of fire and grazing in indigenous rangelands. These offsets are measured and verified by an accredited carbon developer, and the verified carbon units can then be registered and traded on the carbon market. Companies or individuals can purchase (and retire) carbon credits to compensate (offset) for their greenhouse gas emissions. Income from carbon units sold on the market is returned to the landowners, rewarding land management practices that contribute to climate change mitigation, are friendly to cranes and promote greater biodiversity and healthier ecosystems.



Damian Walters/International Crane Foundation

Grey Crowned Cranes. The region is under significant threat from mining, infrastructure development, and agricultural transformation on private and communally owned farms, where most cranes live. The International Crane Foundation has worked in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust in this area for more than 15 years, and since 2017 we have been exploring entering the carbon trading market as another key strategy to further our work. **This year we celebrated our first carbon offsetting project.** All the properties covered by this project are known with high confidence to be important habitat for cranes.

We believe carbon offsetting schemes can be used to achieve real conservation impact while at the same time generating sustainable long-term revenues to support conservation action. If successful, this approach could be vital to the future of many crane landscapes in Africa, Asia and North America, and to the global fight against climate change.

Reaping the Benefits of Climate-Smart Agriculture across East Africa

Climate-smart agriculture is an approach to land management that aims to increase food security while explicitly addressing the challenges of climate change. Agriculture is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change from increasing temperatures, more severe weather, invasive pests and more. At the same time, some agricultural practices contribute to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases.



In western Kenya, climate-smart agricultural practices have helped farmers increase yields while also reducing environmental impact, especially on the areas where Grey Crowned Cranes breed. The project first targeted small-scale farmers who used the wetlands and began with a number of model farms. Farmers successfully adopting climate-

smart strategies then trained other farmers. Climate-smart practices include crop diversification, using manure in place of commercial fertilizer, using mulch and cover crops to suppress weeds, and the adoption of vertical or compact kitchen gardens. Most of the model farmers who set up kitchen gardens were able to get all their household vegetables from them, and some had surplus they could sell.

The International Crane Foundation has fostered climate-smart agricultural practices in communities in northern Rwanda, where cultivation of the fast-growing native perennial Napier grass has stabilized soil and lessened stress on the wetlands of Rugezi



Napier grass harvest in Uganda.

Marsh. The marsh is home to Grey Crowned Cranes as well as a growing human population. People and their cows enter the marsh to find fodder, disturbing cranes and their nests and harming water quality. Farmers who grow Napier grass can feed it to their cows directly or make hay, resulting in less need to enter the wetlands. We have also championed modern bee-keeping methods in



Kitchen garden.

northern Rwanda that have reduced the frequency of damaging fires associated with traditional bee-keeping.

We see cranes, the wetlands, and people all benefiting from climate-smart agriculture. The farmers themselves are staunch conservation partners as they reap the benefits of climate-smart practices. When they pass on their knowledge to other farmers they train, the practices spread quickly. **Our vision is to expand climate-smart agricultural practices across East Africa, ultimately reaching one million farmers who share their lands with cranes.**



“I stopped farming in the wetland because...the amount of time and energy required to farm at the wetland was too much considering my age. Right now, using the vertical bags, I take a very short time to water and weed my vegetables. I get enough time to do other house chores because the garden is within the compound.” – Emily Korir



Bee boxes.



Protecting Wetlands and Livelihoods in Southeast Asia

The International Crane Foundation has worked in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam for over 30 years to save wetlands for the Eastern Sarus Crane and other endangered waterbirds. We played a leading role in establishing Tram Chim National Park, an enormously biodiverse wetland nature preserve that stands out as an

island in a sea of intensive rice production fields. We also demonstrated how Mekong Delta wetlands can support increased employment, improved income, and Sarus Cranes through our award-winning Phu My Lepironia Wetland Conservation Project, benefiting more than 400 farming households. Despite these important gains for cranes and wetlands on their wintering grounds in Vietnam, Sarus Cranes face serious threats on breeding grounds across the border in Cambodia, where they are hunted, poisoned, and face rapid habitat loss, leading to a steep population decline.

This year, we were excited to join together with our colleagues in Thailand and Vietnam for the next phase of our long-term efforts to secure a better future for Eastern Sarus Cranes in Southeast Asia. In Thailand, Sarus Cranes have been successfully reintroduced following their extinction in Thailand a half-century earlier. With research, training and advice from the International Crane Foundation and a strong partnership between ICF, the Government of Vietnam, the Vietnam Zoo Association, and the Zoological Parks Organization of Thailand, a non-migratory flock of Eastern Sarus Cranes raised in Thailand will soon be reintroduced into Tram Chim.

One hallmark of the Thai success story is the support of local farmers. Those who have Sarus Cranes nesting on their land proudly sell a brand of organic rice labeled “Sarus Rice.” In Vietnam, we will adopt a similar approach to assure that cranes can breed and raise their young safely at Tram Chim and the surrounding rice lands of the Mekong Delta. This work is the fruit of a decades-long commitment from the International Crane Foundation to work with partners across Southeast Asia. We are proud to foster cooperation across national borders to benefit cranes, the lands they live on, and the people who also depend on the wetlands for their livelihood.

Tom Lynn

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

More than **65** million gallons of freshwater a year for 3 years

4 partners (Texas Water Trade, International Crane Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Guadalupe Blanco River Authority)

100 acres of freshwater wetlands

At least **17** species of waterbirds documented using these wetlands

Pioneering Voluntary Water Trading – Texas Water Market Makers

One of the complex problems we bring people together to solve is how to ensure fresh water into the future. In Texas, the human population is expected to double over the next three decades. More people means rising demand for municipal water. Texas cities and industries can advocate for the water they need, while rural areas, small farmers and protectors of wild lands may be left out of the conversation.

The Texas coast is an extremely important landscape for Whooping Cranes. The last remnant wild population of federally endangered Whooping Cranes winter within and around the Guadalupe-San Antonio Estuary and surrounding areas. It’s critical that the estuary has enough freshwater inflow and nearby freshwater wetlands to support Whooping Cranes when they reach the area each fall. The needs of the wild wetland inhabitants must be considered alongside the needs of the growing human population on the Texas coast.

To address this issue, the International Crane Foundation joined an initiative this year aimed at forging voluntary water transactions that will help the environment and wildlife in the state’s rivers and bays—Texas Water Market Makers. This pioneering program run by the Texas Water Trade offers a new mechanism of voluntary water trading. It allows conservation organizations like ICF to negotiate for the water that wildlife needs. In partnership with Texas Water Trade and the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, the International Crane Foundation secured more than 65 million gallons of water each year for the next three years. The first installment of water was deployed on the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area in partnership with

the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in November 2022. **This contract was the first of its kind in Texas to benefit Whooping Cranes on the Texas coastline.**



This image captured by a trail camera shows the abundance of waterbirds that utilized these 100 acres of wetlands.



Communities Are at the Center of Conservation

The International Crane Foundation has long been at the forefront of community-based conservation efforts in China, Vietnam, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and South Africa, and we are well respected for this work. Communities around and outside of protected areas are custodians of natural resources. No conservation action can be successful and sustainable without the active engagement, participation and buy-in of local people. We celebrated some notable successes this year, endorsing community-led solutions that have lasting impacts on people while also preserving wetlands and animal life.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

20 rain barrels benefit approximately:

- **600** households
- **2400** children
- **780** cranes in the surrounding marsh

Serving People, Saving Wetlands – Rain Barrels in Uganda

The wetlands of Rukiga District in southwest Uganda are home to the Grey Crowned Crane, Uganda's national bird, which appears on the country's flag and coat of arms. The population of Grey Crowned Cranes in East Africa has declined dramatically, and although this decline has likely been reduced in the areas where we work, it is likely still declining in other areas. This is largely due to increasing pressure on wetlands. In Rukiga and Lwengo Districts of Uganda, the International Crane Foundation and our partner the Endangered Wildlife Trust helped

install 20 easily accessible rainwater barrels—a project 100 percent funded by International Crane Foundation member donations.

Previously, local people had to walk long distances to collect water from the wetlands. With the provision of rainwater barrels in central locations like schools, churches and health centers, people could much more easily get clean water. The rain barrels provide safe water for families in hundreds of homes.

This solution reduced the strain on the wetlands, and it also had an immediate impact on the day-to-day lives of people in the area. One eight-year-old explained that he used to leave his 92-year-old grandmother alone while he walked across two villages to fetch water—all before he went to school in the morning. Now with potable water close at hand, he could better prepare for his school day and spend more time with his grandmother. While the addition of the rain barrels immediately benefited the wetlands, the project also has long-lasting implications for the education and health of the people of the surrounding communities.



Community members fetch water from one of the convenient rain barrels.

A Population, Health and Environment project seeks to integrate family planning, human health, water supply, and sustainable livelihoods with biodiversity conservation. By investing in the well-being of poor communities, we increase their capacity to share their lands with cranes and other wildlife while improving their standard of living.

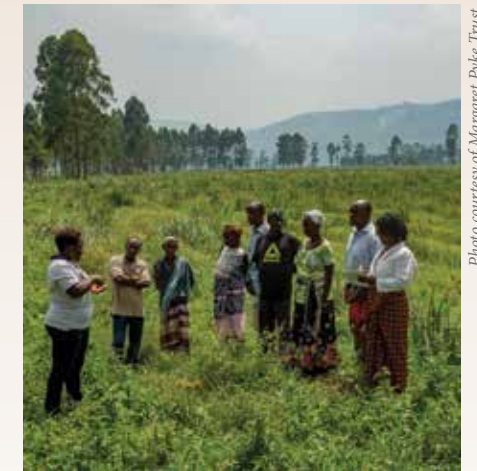


Photo courtesy of Margaret Pyke Trust.



Top photo: A community education session.
Bottom: Ugandan farmers at work.

An Integrated Partnership – Girls’ Latrine Project, Uganda

The International Crane Foundation is proud of another community-centered conservation project in Uganda that keeps girls in school as an avenue to preserving wetlands that are home to Grey Crowned

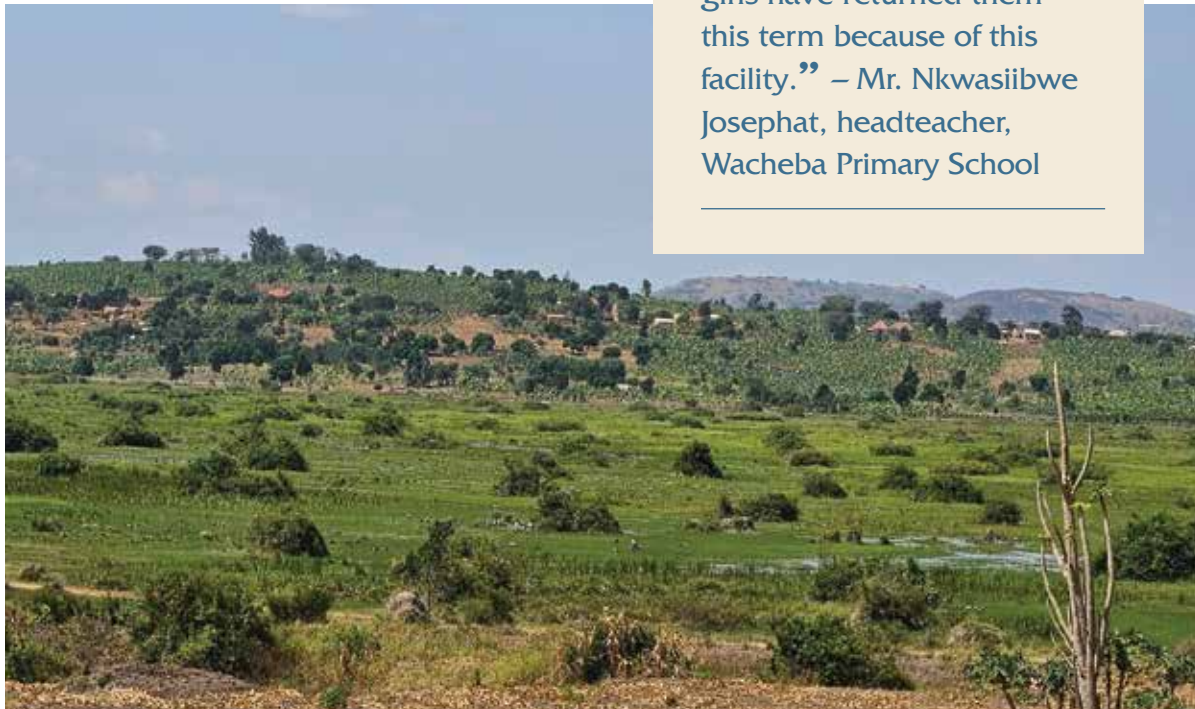
Cranes. As part of an integrated partnership project that included climate-smart agriculture, health care and family planning, ICF funded the construction of a private latrine for girls at a primary school in the Rukiga District. The idea to build the latrine came from community input.



Latrine constructed for girls at Wacheba Primary School (right) and latrine that was being shared by boys and girls (left).

Resources are scarce in “last-mile” communities in Uganda.

“With the new latrine built by ICF, our girls have very comfortable places to ease themselves. In fact, parents who had taken away their girls have returned them this term because of this facility.” – Mr. Nkwasiibwe Josephat, headteacher, Wacheba Primary School



Grey Crowned Cranes. Courtesy of Margaret Pyke Trust.

In “last-mile” communities in Uganda, resources are scarce, and people who live here may be the last to get the services they need. Girls in these communities often drop out of school early. Because they don’t have a private, girls-only bathroom at school, once they start menstruating, they stay home. These girls often marry young and begin having children soon after—sometimes 10 or 12 children over their lifetime. The resulting population growth has meant people have pushed into the surrounding wetlands to grow crops.

The ICF team had already formed a partnership to improve human and environmental health in the area in 2021. The partnership included ICF, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Margaret Pyke Trust, Rugarama Hospital, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. ICF completed the first girls’ latrine project at Wacheba Primary School in Rukiga District during 2023. Now with a private, girls-only facility, it was easier for girls to stay in school. The building of the girls’ latrine is expected to have real impact in the community and lead to a reduced burden on the wetlands.

A second girls’ latrine will be completed at another primary school in Rukiga District next year.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Population, Health and Environment Partnership (2021-2023)

Served more than **13,500** people in the Rukiga District

Increased the number of breeding pairs of Grey Crowned Cranes in the project site from **11** to **33** pairs

Increased the number of crane chicks fledging from **13** to **32** chicks

Trained **248** households in climate-smart sustainable agricultural practices

Established conservation and health agreements covering **200** hectares of wetlands

Provided **2,000** family planning services

Delivered more than **6,400** healthcare services

Helping Farmers Coexist with Cranes – Advancing Conservation Plans for Sandhill Cranes in North America

Sandhill Cranes are the most successful crane species, outnumbering all the other crane species combined. Though Sandhills have rebounded through much of



Sandhill Cranes in corn field.

their range, farmlands have now replaced the prairie uplands that they relied on earlier. As the Sandhill population has grown abundantly in the Midwest, farmers have reported loss of crops due to cranes eating newly planted seeds. On the West Coast, the picture is a little different. The Sandhill Crane is listed as a state threatened species in California and a state endangered species in Washington. Suburban sprawl, drought, and increased competition for available water have affected the wetlands the birds depend on. And some agricultural crops Sandhills used for foraging, such as rice, have been replaced with woody crops such as almonds, which cranes avoid. Finding solutions for both farmers and cranes is crucial in both the Midwest and in the Sandhills’ Pacific Flyway.

Listening to farmers was a big part of our work this year. Working with an agricultural policy consultant, we learned that farmers are unable to gain compensation for crop losses due to cranes and struggle to afford Avipel, the nontoxic coating that deters cranes from eating treated seeds. We began more detailed research on crane behaviors where Avipel is used to learn whether cranes change their diet or move to other fields that aren’t treated. And we committed to more collaboration with local landowners to find cost-effective solutions to make their crops successful where cranes are also successful. Securing a farmer-friendly future for cranes is one of the many conservation challenges we will solve together through the innovative work of our staff and our extensive partnerships.

Tom Lynn

Tom Lynn



Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve ranger Naasaa with his son, who attended the Young Naturalists Summer Programme camp run by our partner, the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center.

Leaning into Community Strengths – Khurkh-Khuiten River Valley, Mongolia

Another example of community-based conservation is seen in the grasslands and wetlands of the Khurkh-Khuiten River Valley in Mongolia. The International Crane Foundation is partnering with the Mongolian non-governmental organization the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center (WSCC) in a ten-year plan to manage the new Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve. The area is full of cranes, and also heavily grazed by the cows, sheep, goats, yaks and horses of local herders. While the animals put stress on the wetlands and can trample crane nests and eggs, the people depend on their herds for their livelihood.

This year saw the hiring of eight new staff members, including four rangers. Most of the new staff were drawn from the local community and can build trust with the herding families living in the reserve. They have undergone rigorous hands-on training, visited other reserves, and worked with WSCC scientists to collect hydrological data and capture cranes for banding. While they are developing a genuine passion for the reserve, they are also seeing it through new eyes.

One of the new Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve staff, Nasanjargal Tsend-Ochir (Naasaa), worked in local administration for 24 years before becoming a ranger. He spoke about the need for a fresh perspective.



White-naped Cranes at Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve.

Kari Stauffer/International Crane Foundation

“These wetlands and grasslands are fragile and the reserve is important to help both the welfare of the cranes and the local people,” he said. “Our lands are overgrazed and we need to look at our lives in new ways and be open to other solutions.” **Through hiring insightful local staff like Naasaa, we lean into the strengths of the surrounding communities as partners in preserving the landscape.**



Garrett Hopkins

Generational Investment - Inspiring Future Conservationists

The International Crane Foundation believes that to protect cranes into the future, we must nurture the next generation of conservationists. We have developed innovative programs in schools and have used the cultural resonance of cranes to connect kids across continents. Our outreach in North America draws in children, hunters, outdoors enthusiasts and animal lovers of all kinds, and our internship program at our headquarters gives young conservationists a firm footing as they begin their career path.



Cultivating Community Awareness between Two of the World's Most Important Wetlands – Poyang Lake and Kafue Flats

Among many strategies the International Crane Foundation employs in areas where

we work is a concerted effort to educate young people on the importance of cranes. We cultivated a key educational experience this year that brought together children living as crane neighbors on two continents to celebrate their shared cultural attachment to cranes. Students from Wucheng Primary School in China

met virtually with students at Lochinvar Primary School in southern Zambia in a global educational experience called **Cranes Bringing People and Nature Together International Youth Environmental Education Exchange**. Both communities are at the heart of significant wetlands—Poyang Lake and the Kafue Flats—and both honor cranes as cultural symbols.

China is home to more crane species than any other country in the world. ICF has been involved in conservation in China since 1979. Our work in China focuses on three regions, including Poyang Lake in the Yangtze River basin in southern China. Poyang is the largest freshwater lake in China and is regarded as the most important wetland in East Asia. It provides a winter habitat for almost all of the world's Siberian Cranes. White-naped Cranes, Hooded Cranes, Oriental White Storks, Swan Geese, Whooper Swans and many other species of concern also winter in this special ecosystem. Like other wetlands worldwide, this



Crane paintings: Top by Yuan Shuyao. Bottom by Dai Junze.

rich bird and animal habitat is threatened by human activity such as agriculture, fishing and mining.

Lochinvar is at the southern edge of the Kafue Flats, a critically important African wetland. Kafue Flats is the most important breeding area for Wattled Cranes, home to 30 percent of the world's population. As at Poyang Lake, we have a decades-long history of working with the densely populated communities that depend on the Kafue Flats to promote conservation efforts. In the virtual conference organized by ICF China staff, children from these parallel locales worlds apart shared artwork, poems, songs and dances expressing their gratitude for cranes. **Part of inspiring the next generation is bringing people together to celebrate our common experiences with the richness of nature.**



Garrett Hopkins

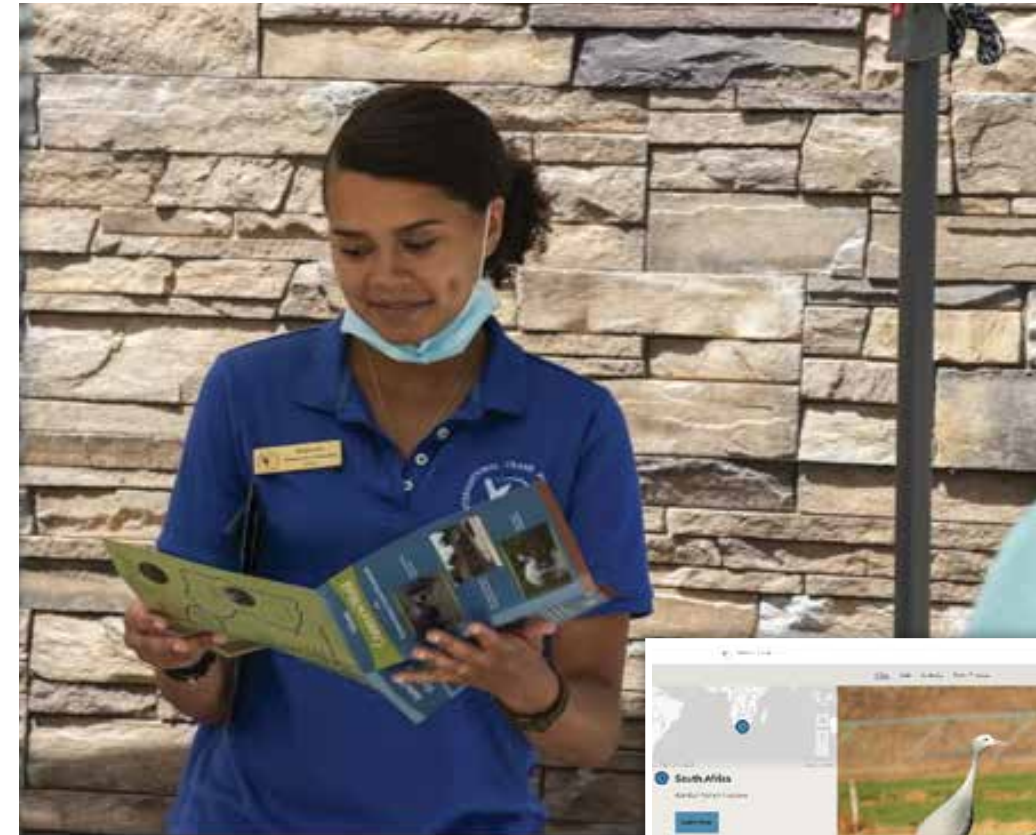
Protecting Whooping Cranes through Community Outreach – Zoo Carts

One of the biggest dangers to the small population of Whooping Cranes in North America is illegal shootings by humans. Over the past ten years, poaching has accounted for over ten percent of Whooping Crane mortalities—a figure that is even higher in some areas. To prevent these needless deaths, the International Crane Foundation has engaged hunters, naturalists, outdoor enthusiasts and school-age children in order to foster awareness of the presence of Whooping Cranes and appreciation of the species' history and importance.



Garrett Hopkins

Expanding on ongoing outreach efforts, ICF created a Whooping Crane Zoo Cart pilot project this year. It debuted in two southern Wisconsin zoos—Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and the Milwaukee County Zoo. With interactive displays including a magnetic marsh scene, a life-size Whooping Crane exhibit, Whooping Crane artifacts and more, the Zoo Carts aimed to teach visitors to recognize Whooping Cranes and to make them aware of the dangers cranes face. In the project's first year, the mobile Zoo Carts reached visitors from counties across Wisconsin and from many other states. Data collected from the pilot program will gauge the potential for a wider outreach program reaching people in other crane areas across the United States.



Hannah Jones/International Crane Foundation

Makeela Magomolla.

Education Internships – Fostering a Strong Start for Young Conservationists

Our Conservation Education Naturalist interns tell the story of the International Crane Foundation and help connect visitors to our Baraboo site to our projects, staff, and cranes all around the world. By bringing their fresh perspectives and unique backgrounds into our program, they develop resources to connect with a wider variety of people. For example, Conservation Education Intern Makeela Magomolla spent eight months at ICF's headquarters this year, leading tours and working on projects. Makeela's internship was funded by our partner the Antonia Foundation. Makeela grew up in Duluth, Minnesota and also spent time traveling in her father's home country, Tanzania. Finding that many people who toured our site in Baraboo were also interested in seeing cranes in their home habitats, she created a resource to show people where they could go to view cranes in the wild. "Many of our guests are travelers," she said, "and speaking with them about their experiences with cranes in the wild has been one of my favorite things about this season." Once Makeela's time at our headquarters came to a close, she moved on to an internship with an ICF partner organization, the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association in Kigali. **The International Crane Foundation is committed to giving early-career conservationists like Makeela a strong foundation for their future work.**

International Crane Foundation Annual Report Donor List

Whether you're motivated by the risk of losing the most endangered cranes, by the opportunity to secure the beautiful wild places that cranes need, or by the urge to improve the conditions of people who share their lives with cranes, you know the International Crane Foundation does difficult work. The issues we face are enormous, as competition for the vital resources that crane habitats provide are only increasing.

Still, the world of crane conservation demands that we do more. So let's do it. Let's go bigger. As we celebrate our first 50 years, we are in the midst of planning innovative ways to scale up our impact. The International Crane Foundation has the vision, models, talent and resources to do more. We have successes to build on. And we intend to.

Your financial gifts have allowed us to advance this demanding work on five continents and 50 countries for 50 years. You've stepped in with us to restore the Kafue Flats in Africa and to work on conservation of the most vital wetland in East Asia, Poyang Lake. You've helped us bring hunters, herders and school children together to take pride in cranes and what they represent. Through your financial support you've helped conserve vital crane habitat at Tram Chim National Park in Vietnam while also supporting rice farmers who coexist with cranes. You've been with us to cross borders, build partnerships and pull together on behalf of cranes worldwide.

None of this work is possible without you. Thank you for supporting the International Crane Foundation for the past 50 years. Stay with us to achieve our mission to secure all 15 species of cranes and the ecosystems, waterways and flyways on which they depend.

Tom Lynn

\$100,000 and Greater

Anonymous
Aqualia International Foundation, Ltd.
Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation
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Robert Dohmen*
Hamill Family Foundation
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Rushmore Foundation
Searle Family Trust
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Heidi Kiesler*
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Patricia Manigault*
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Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust
Diana K. Rogers Estate
Felicia Santini
Turner Foundation, Inc.
W. Jerome Frautschi Foundation
Why Wait Fund
Woodland Park Zoo

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous (2)
George Archibald*
Susan Avery
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Susan and Brad Billetdeaux
Brico Fund, LLC
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Bettie Cartwright
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
The Clayton Fund, Inc.
Edwin Crosby Estate
Michael Crowbridge
Dallas Zoological Society
Jeanne and Ed Eloranta
Carol Fleishauer
The Frieda and William Hunt Memorial Trust
Joan C. Fudala and Richard L. Dike
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Greenfield-Hartline Habitat Conservation Fund
Kathryn Hale*
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Joseph and Lorraine Saunders Family Trust
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Judy and Richard Katz
Nancy Ranney Levi and David Levi
The Lozick Family Foundation
The M.L.L.E. Foundation
Marnell Giving Fund
Mason Foundation, Inc.
Alan Maximuk Estate
Nancy* and John Merrill
Sandra Moss
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Margaret and Donald O'Brien
Patti* and Jack McKeithan Northwoods Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Don Pentz
Phoebe R. and John D. Lewis Foundation
Diane* and Layton Ridders
San Antonio Bay Partnership Inc.
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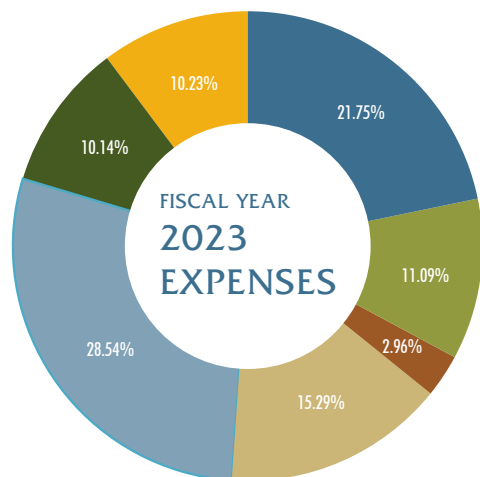
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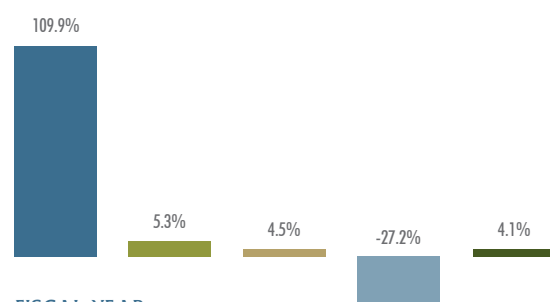
INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ended March 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$5,653,557	\$5,780,211
Accounts receivable	\$36,987	\$92,833
Unconditional promises to give, current portion	\$1,123,362	\$466,900
Inventories	\$88,355	\$80,654
Prepaid expenses	\$124,081	\$101,769
Total Current Assets	\$7,026,342	\$6,522,367
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	\$12,440,280	\$13,397,374
OTHER ASSETS		
Unconditional promises to give, long-term portion	\$288,005	\$567,807
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts and community foundation	\$1,033,487	\$1,225,343
Investments, restricted to endowments	\$4,111,819	\$4,015,511
Investments, other	\$31,938,168	\$36,139,771
Cash and Investments restricted for capital improvements	\$875,466	\$396,738
Construction in Progress	\$61,133	\$31,317
Other receivables	-	-
Total Other Assets	\$38,308,078	\$42,376,487
Total Assets	\$57,774,700	\$62,296,228
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Loan Payable to related party	-	-
Notes Payable	-	-
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$107,043	\$108,379
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	\$382,529	\$370,849
Deferred revenues and refundable advances	\$81,987	\$56,449
Total Current Liabilities	\$571,559	\$535,677
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		
Notes Payable, long term portion	-	-
Total Liabilities	\$571,559	\$535,677
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$42,025,316	\$46,498,736
With Donor Restrictions	\$15,177,825	\$15,261,815
Total Net Assets	\$57,203,141	\$61,760,551
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$57,774,700	\$62,296,228



Africa	\$2,503,292	21.75%
East Asia	\$1,276,116	11.09%
South and Southeast Asia	\$340,541	2.96%
North America	\$1,758,933	15.29%
ICF Center for Conservation Leadership	\$3,284,473	28.54%
General & Administrative	\$1,166,430	10.14%
Fundraising	\$1,177,414	10.23%
Total Program Services	\$9,163,355	79.63%
Total Supporting Activities	\$2,343,844	20.37%
Total Expenses	\$11,507,199	100.00%



Contributions and Grants	\$7,636,318	109.9%
Memberships	\$605,388	8.7%
Sales and Tour Income	\$311,219	4.5%
Investment Income (Loss)	(\$1,887,316)	-27.2%
Other	\$284,180	4.1%
Total Revenue	\$6,949,789	100.0%

The International Crane Foundation collaborates with a global network of partners in more than 50 countries on 5 continents. The quality and scope of our work is expanded through partnerships with organizations that collaborate with us to advance our mission. Our partners worldwide bring expertise and experience to help us achieve what we could not do alone. We are grateful for investments of time, equipment, local knowledge and connections, grant funding, joint fundraising efforts and much more, from the organizations listed below.

Advancing Conservation through Empathy (ACE) for Wildlife Network, African Parks, Afriwet Consultants Etude and Conseils (Senegal), Aldo Leopold Foundation, Amos Butler Audubon Society, Association Natuur Koussebel (Senegal), Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Beijing Forestry University, Canadian Wildlife Service, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, Community Action for Nature Conservation, Crane Trust, Crane Working Group of Eurasia, Dallas Zoo, Department of National Parks and Wildlife (Zambia), Disney Conservation Fund, Dong Thap Province (Vietnam), Ducks Unlimited, Endangered Wildlife Trust, East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership, Freeport McMoran Audubon Species Survival Center - Audubon Nature Institute, Friends of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Network, Friends of Goose Pond, Friends of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Gulf Coast Joint Venture, Henry Vilas Zoo, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission, IPRC Kitabi (Rwanda), Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (Kenya), Kranichschutz Deutschland, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana State University, Lumbini Crane Sactuary, Margaret Pyke Trust, Mekong Wetland University, Milwaukee County Zoo, Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Muraviovka Park (Russia), The Nature Conservancy, Northeast Forestry University (China), Parks Canada, Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat) Zoo (Thailand), Population & Sustainability Network, Ramsar: the Convention on Wetlands (Switzerland), Red-crowned Crane Conservancy (Japan), Republic of Uganda – Lwengo District Local Government, Republic of Uganda – Rukiga District Local Government, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (Bhutan), Rugarama Hospital (Uganda), Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, San Antonio Bay Partnership, Sassafras Audubon Society, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Solidaridad Zambia, Tennessee Valley Authority, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Uganda Meteorological Authority, Uganda Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, University of Wisconsin, Vietnam Zoo Association, Waterbird Network Korea, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Wetlands International, White Oak Conservation, Wild Bird Society of Japan, Wilder Institute, Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Master Naturalists, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, World Wildlife Fund Nepal, World Wildlife Fund Zambia, Zoological Park Organization of Thailand.

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The International Crane Foundation is fully accredited by the **Association of Zoos and Aquariums**. We are recognized and approved by a panel of experts who apply strict professional standards for excellence in animal care, conservation, and education.



The International Crane Foundation is a member of the **Conservation Measures Partnership**, a commitment of major conservation organizations and donors to best practices for designing, managing, and measuring the impacts of our conservation actions. We use the Conservation Standards adaptive management framework to achieve and demonstrate greater and longer lasting global impacts.



Charity Navigator, the leading independent charity watchdog, has consistently awarded the International Crane Foundation with a **Four-star Rating**, recognizing us for exceeding industry standards in the areas of nonprofit financial health, accountability, and transparency.



The International Crane Foundation achieved **GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency**. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

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Tom Lynn

Our Commitment to Sustainable Development

The International Crane Foundation aims to integrate health, environment, and sustainable livelihoods initiatives with crane and wetland conservation. Projects described in the report above such as water tanks for communities in the Rugezi Marsh and the female latrines in western Uganda address long-term challenges of poverty and population growth while building support for crane and wetland conservation action. In doing so, we align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These 17 goals were adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015, providing a shared framework for organizations tackling massive issues like addressing climate change and ensuring healthy land and water. Some of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals are Climate Action, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



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
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608-356-9462
www.savingcranes.org



*Front cover: Uganda staff release a juvenile Grey Crowned Crane after fitting it with ELSA color rings (bands). Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi/International Crane Foundation
Back cover: A Siberian Crane and chick at Poyang Lake, China. Zhou Haiyan.
All photos by International Crane Foundation except where noted.*

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