



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

April 2024-March 2025



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

For more than 50 years, the International Crane Foundation has championed a vision for saving cranes—and so much more. The work we’ve accomplished this past year is a testament to what our persistence, innovation and global cooperation can achieve. We share stories from across continents—of cranes thriving in restored habitats, of communities finding new ways to prosper while protecting wildlife, and of partnerships overcoming geopolitical, environmental and economic barriers. Whether in the Demilitarized Zone that divides North and South Korea, the remote wetlands of Chad, or the rice paddies of Myanmar, we have witnessed time and again how cranes unite people across boundaries of politics, culture and geography.

The results are real for this highly threatened family of birds: eight crane species now show population increases, and many others are holding steady after decades of decline. The Whooping Crane, once on the brink of extinction, now numbers nearly 700 in the wild. Sandhill Cranes, once nearly lost from Wisconsin, again fill our skies and marshes with their iconic calls. In Africa and Asia, we see encouraging signs for many species long considered at grave risk. And through cranes, we are protecting and managing vibrant landscapes—vast floodplains in Zambia, coastal wetlands in Texas, and freshwater marshes in China and Vietnam—that sustain ourselves and our biological heritage.

This year we also adopted a new 10-year strategic vision for the International Crane Foundation. Our vision is deeply rooted in our shared values, hard-earned lessons and collective strength as a community of staff, directors, volunteers and partners in more than 60 countries worldwide. Together, we’ve envisioned a future where cranes, diverse landscapes and healthy communities thrive together. And we’ve planned how we’ll work to get there. Our vision is still about saving cranes AND so much more: revitalizing wild and working landscapes, improving conditions for lesser-known species, and helping communities improve their livelihoods and resiliency.

Your support makes this possible. Every safe nesting site, every restored wetland, every child inspired to care for the natural world is a direct result of your commitment. As you read this report, we hope you see yourself in these successes, and we thank you for standing with us to ensure a better future for cranes, people, and the lands we all share.

With gratitude and resolve,



Richard Beilfuss
Richard Beilfuss
President & CEO



Roberta Asher
Roberta Asher
Board Chair

Black-necked Cranes at Cao Hai Nature Reserve, China.

Who We Are

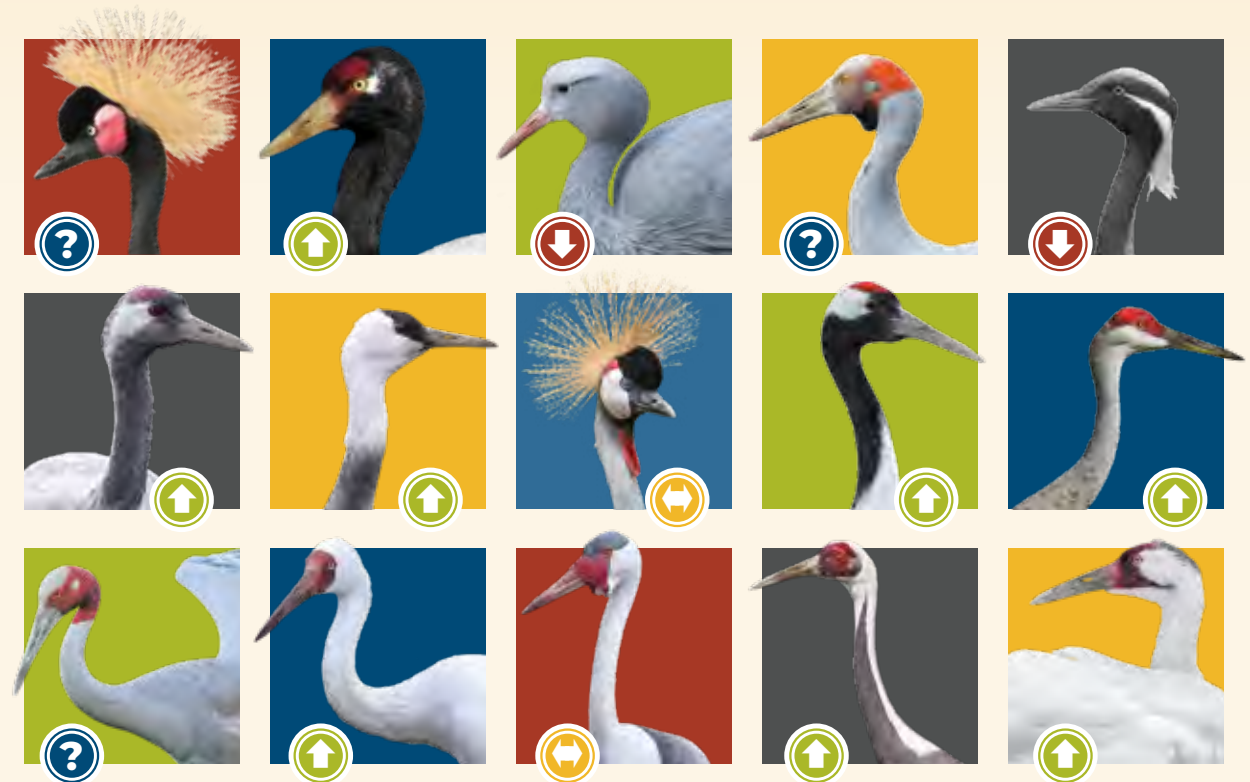
The International Crane Foundation unites people behind the charisma of cranes to inspire international cooperation, help improve people's livelihoods, and protect millions of acres of wetlands and grasslands on the five continents where cranes live. Our nonprofit organization is headquartered in Baraboo, Wisconsin. We have offices in China, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, South Africa and Texas, with staff and partners in many more locations in the U.S., Africa and Asia. We champion cranes as ambassadors for international goodwill, working across geographic, political, social and cultural boundaries to achieve lasting conservation solutions alongside our members and partners. We bring people together from all backgrounds and interests to work together to solve big conservation challenges. We mentor local conservation leadership everywhere we work, identifying and supporting leaders for today and tomorrow in the places that cranes need to thrive. We genuinely care about the communities we serve, knowing that lasting conservation solutions must support the well-being and livelihoods of the people who share their lands with cranes.

Hamah Jones/International Crane Foundation

An aerial view of our headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Our site is a significant oasis of restored native landscape in this region, including more than 175 acres of restored prairie, wetlands, oak savanna and forest.

HOW ARE THE CRANES DOING?

Since our founding more than 50 years ago, the International Crane Foundation has implemented science-based conservation of cranes and the wetland, grassland and agricultural habitats upon which they rely. We closely monitor the impact of our work, mapping crane species population numbers and trends, tracking threats, and adjusting our tactics and strategies based on new information. Cranes are one of the most endangered families of birds on earth. Yet during the past decade, we made great progress for 10 of the world's 15 species of cranes and stabilized declining populations of others, as shown in the graphic below.



Eight species show an overall population increase: Siberian, Red-crowned, White-naped, Hooded, and Black-necked Cranes in Asia, Eurasian Cranes across Eurasia, and Whooping and Sandhill Cranes in North America. Grey Crowned and Wattled Crane populations in Africa stabilized following decades of decline. Only two populations decreased over this past decade—Blue Cranes in Africa and Demoiselle Cranes across Eurasia. We are doubling down on survey efforts this year to better understand population trends for three other species—Sarus Cranes in Asia, Brolga in Australia, and Black-Crowned Cranes in Africa.

Cranes pictured above from left to right: Top row – Black Crowned, Black-necked, Blue, Brolga, Demoiselle; Middle row – Eurasian, Hooded, Grey Crowned, Red-crowned, Sandhill; Bottom row – Sarus, Siberian, Wattled, White-naped, Whooping.

WE'RE ABOUT SO MUCH MORE THAN SAVING CRANES



ICF staff walking a site at Tram Chim National Park in Vietnam, where Sarus Cranes are being reintroduced.

LAND AND HABITAT WE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY PROTECT

Tens of millions

of hectares of land protected for cranes and many other species worldwide

70 million hectares of protected areas for cranes in China, in 76 sites managed at the national or provincial level

650,000 hectares managed and conserved in Zambia through our long-term commitment, covering two national parks and surrounding floodplains of the Kafue Flats

95,000 hectares conserved and co-managed through partners in Mongolia’s Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve

90,000 hectares in the Drakensberg of South Africa enrolled in our first carbon offsetting project

7,300 hectares of wetland in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta protected for Sarus Cranes and other wildlife at Tram Chim National Park

PEOPLE IMPACTED BY OUR WORK

60,000+ people improving their land use around wetlands through community outreach

23,174 visitors inspired by our Crane Discovery Center site in Baraboo, Wisconsin this year

14,400 people in North America reached through community events we held across the Whooping Crane flyway

8,000+ youth engaged in conservation through Crane Awareness programs in Grey Crowned Crane habitat around Rwanda’s Rugezi Marsh since 2015

5,000 families benefit from fresh water this year with our installation of **6** spring source protection points in Kenya

240 new farmers learning climate smart agriculture in Uganda’s Mbarara district

7 dedicated Crane Schools, teaching approximately **900** students, focus on crane-related environmental curriculum in areas where Black-necked and Siberian Cranes nest in China

CRANES AS GEOPOLITICAL AMBASSADORS

Even in this era of increasing polarization in the United States and around the world, cranes bring people together. The International Crane Foundation has always worked in remote and sometimes hostile or war-torn places. Through the charisma of cranes, people across political and cultural divides are inspired to cooperate in restoring and preserving their habitats and helping local communities thrive.

Venturing into Chad for the Black Crowned Crane

This year, our Deputy Director for Africa, Mark van Niekerk, joined a group of researchers on a trip to Lake Fitri in northeast Chad in search of conservation solutions for the little-known Black Crowned Crane. Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world and has been heavily affected by spillover from war in its neighbor Sudan. ICF staff have not been able to access Lake Fitri before, though this crucial wetland ecosystem plays a critical role in the conservation of many species including the Black Crowned Crane. Chad is a major stronghold for Black Crowned Cranes. Five years ago, an ICF team including CEO Rich Beilfuss, VP-Africa Kerry Morrison and Board Director Tom Leiden counted more than 14,000 cranes at Chad’s Zakouma National Park—the largest population ever recorded for this beleaguered species—but their breeding grounds remain unknown.

On this recent trip, Mark and the team of researchers traveled many days by 4X4, horse and cart, and boat to reach the island of Yao in the northeast of Lake Fitri. The researchers conducted daily visits with other island communities accessible by boat from Yao, determining, among other things, the presence of Black Crowned Cranes. Although difficult to get to, the fieldwork at Lake Fitri resulted in valuable insights into the ecological health of the region and forms the basis for future conservation work in the area. We plan to focus on habitat preservation, sustainable agriculture and resource use, and stronger community involvement to protect this vital ecosystem.



A flooded village on the way to Lake Fitri. There were exceptional rains in 2024.

Mark van Niekerk/International Crane Foundation



Demoiselle Cranes in flight.

Andrew Holman

Protecting Cranes from Hunting in Pakistan

The International Crane Foundation also made inroads into the conservation of cranes in Pakistan this year, despite political chasms and the difficulty of enforcing environmental laws in remote rural areas. Our greatest concern is the hunting of Eurasian and Demoiselle Cranes in certain parts of Pakistan and other parts of the Central Asia Flyway, where it is likely to jeopardize the population dynamics. The western population of Siberian Cranes that used to migrate to Iran and India in the Central Asia Flyway have been extirpated, primarily due to killing during their long migrations. Demoiselle and Eurasian Cranes similarly face threats along the flyway due to mass killing and trapping. The migratory cranes are at a serious risk at a time when they already face other challenges, including habitat loss and climate change.

ICF leadership organized a meeting in early 2025 to share concerns with senior government officials in Pakistan. In response, four provinces of Pakistan have begun inter-provincial coordination to prevent poaching and smuggling of cranes during and after the migration season. We continue to advocate for stronger law enforcement, increased public awareness and greater international cooperation to protect migratory cranes.



A crane awareness campaign in Myanmar.

Tin Aung Tun/International Crane Foundation

Crane Conservation in Myanmar

The International Crane Foundation has a long history of supporting conservation in Myanmar, another country often difficult for outsiders to access because of political tensions. We’ve conducted crane surveys in Myanmar since the mid-1990s, and since 2015, have partnered with Yangon University to conduct regular monitoring of the Sarus Crane population in the Ayeyarwady Delta. This year, ICF Myanmar Program staff assessed population numbers, distribution, and habitats of Sarus Cranes, documented land-use changes of floating rice paddies in all six townships where cranes are present, and engaged local communities in conservation with education and awareness campaigns.



Kari Stauffer/International Crane Foundation

Despite formidable fortifications, cranes and other wildlife flourish in the Civilian Controlled Zone between North and South Korea.

Safeguarding Cranes between the Koreas

One of the most challenging places on earth for crane conservation is the Civilian Controlled Zone between North and South Korea. As habitats disappear elsewhere in East Asia, the number of cranes wintering in the CCZ has increased dramatically. ICF staff and partners in South Korea are engaging with farmers to promote crane-friendly farming practices to sustain the huge flocks of Red-crowned and White-naped Cranes, though the war-scarred landscape still brims with military presence. The cranes feed on rice grains left intentionally by local farmers, who cultivate their fields during the day but live outside the zone. These working lands are vital to cranes and farmers, but their future is uncertain. Development pressure is intense, and if traditional farming gives way to commerce and industry, one of the last crane strongholds in East Asia will be lost.

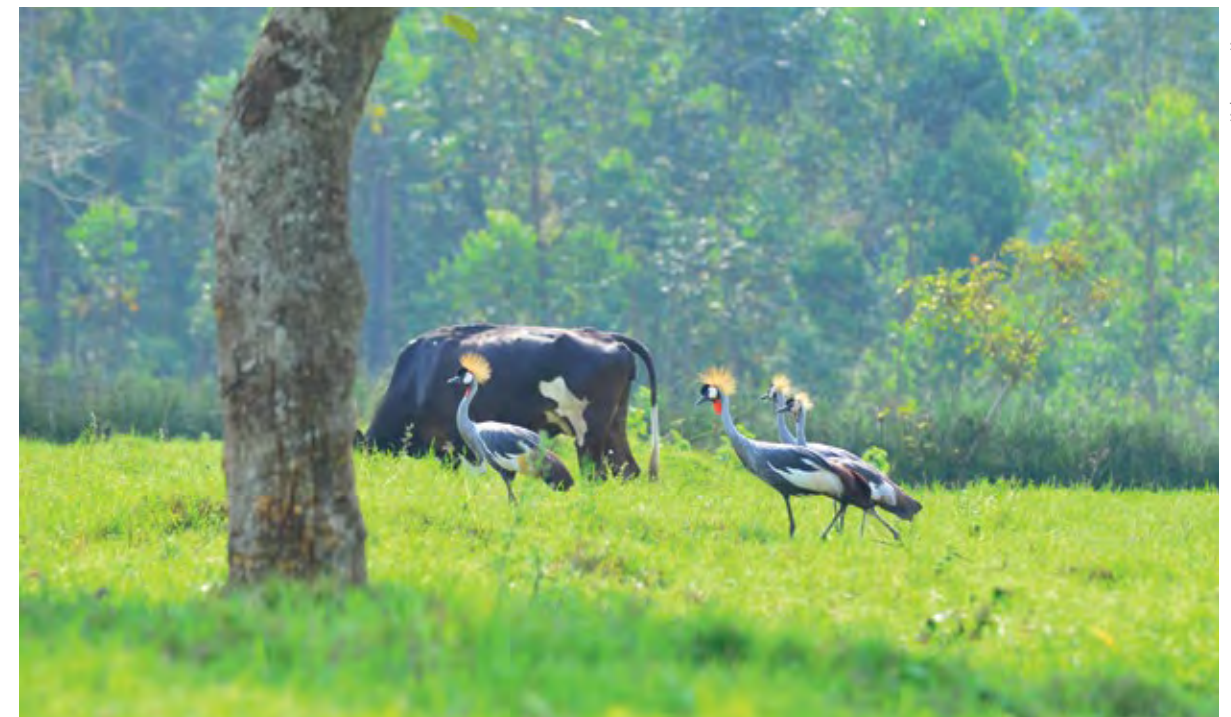
ICF's Board of Directors visited the CCZ this January to demonstrate our commitment to helping our Korean partners find a lasting conservation solution through new alliances with those who control the fate of these lands. We know that even in conflict-ridden and contested areas, the International Crane Foundation makes inroads. Cranes unite us, bringing people together to protect them and their habitats.

CONNECTING SCIENCE AND COMMUNITIES FOR SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

Our work balances scientific, data-driven know-how with community engagement and local knowledge. We apply innovative and technical tactics in communities where we have standing, to the benefit of cranes, landscapes and people.

Community-based conservation in East Africa

While we take a community-based approach to conservation everywhere we work, the breadth of projects we completed across Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda this year is noteworthy. We have prioritized work in the most important wetlands and their watersheds for Grey Crowned Crane conservation. The goal of community-based conservation is to promote the well-being of local people in predominantly rural and underserved areas while also protecting the area's cranes. To that end, we have provided health services in cooperation with the London School of Hygiene and family planning services in cooperation with the Margaret Pyke Trust and Rugarama Hospital. We've installed rain barrels for community water supply, established new sources of fodder for livestock management, and constructed private latrines for schoolgirls to help them remain in school longer. We also enriched and diversified buffer zones around wetlands with indigenous trees, fruit trees, beehives and avocado trees for cash income.



Kahangye Kagwa

Grey Crowned Cranes in Uganda.

A good example of the impact of these projects is our installation of six freshwater spring source protection points in Nandi County, Kenya. Many families throughout Nandi County lack



The new spring source protection points let thousands of families access clean, fresh water without disturbing the wetlands where Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes nest.

access to safe water near home for themselves and their animals. Residents, usually women and children, travel miles into the wetland to collect water from open springs. Not only is this water unsafe to drink unless treated, but it also disturbs the wetlands, an important resource for the community and a feeding and breeding ground for the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane. Spring source protection points keep animals from trampling where the spring emerges. They provide safe water to more than 5,000 families, thanks in part to a one-million-dollar commitment from the Leiden Conservation Foundation and support from the local communities and governments.

Projects like these exemplify our combination of scientific and technical expertise with our respect for and understanding of the knowledge of the community. Our work has fostered deep and lasting support from the communities who share their lands with cranes.

Eva Takol/International Crane Foundation



Hannah Jones/International Crane Foundation

Illustrating Crane Migration

For just a few weeks each year, more than half a million Sandhill Cranes and a handful of Endangered Whooping Cranes descend upon a short stretch of Nebraska's Platte River in one of nature's great migrations. This year, thanks to an anonymous donor, we renovated and re-opened our Migration Center on our Crane Discovery Center site in Baraboo. Visitors experience the sights and sounds of the Platte in spring and also enjoy our historic mural of the Platte, painted by Soviet artist Victor Bakhtin for us in 1995.



When seeking innovative ways to protect cranes, we always begin by engaging with local communities. By collaborating with residents and local governments, we are able to find the best path forward—one that balances community well-being with effective conservation.

Dr. Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi

East Africa Regional Director

Cultivating Community Pride in Whooping Cranes

Another strong example of how we connect science-based crane conservation with community solutions is found in our long-standing work with the reintroduction of Whooping Cranes. The International Crane Foundation is a world leader in genetic management and rearing techniques. Since 1989, we have been managing a captive flock at our headquarters and reintroducing captive-bred Whooping Crane chicks to the wild. We have researched and documented all aspects of Whooping Crane biology. Our staff have authored or co-authored dozens of book chapters, research papers and conference proceedings. This year, our staff shared important scientific findings on topics such as the different migration patterns between parent-reared and costume-reared Whooping Cranes, habitat use by reintroduced parent-reared cranes, and lead and mercury exposure in Whooping Cranes.

We put our science into action to keep the Whooping Crane population expanding. We pair our scientific work with outreach to people in communities near Whooping Crane breeding, migration and wintering grounds. Connections with farmers, birders, people who love the outdoors, and school children mean that everyone can contribute to the flock's safety. We make sure that people can identify Whooping Cranes and tell them apart from more common but similar birds like herons and pelicans. We talk to hunters about the impact of shooting deaths on this fragile recovery and make sure they can differentiate Whooping Cranes from other species like geese that are legal to hunt. Our popular program in public libraries in Louisiana teaches young kids that they too can keep Whooping Cranes safe. Everywhere Whooping Cranes are most at risk, we aim to develop community pride in them and to encourage local commitment to sharing lands and waters with these amazing birds.



We want to encourage, inspire and create future environmental stewards who can take part in caring for our environment and all it encapsulates. We're able to reach many members of the community through our library programs, and the libraries assist us with teaching the community and youth about Whooping Cranes in an engaging, fun and interactive way.

Brittney Palode

Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant – Louisiana



Children who participated in the library programs made their very own Whooping Crane masks.

Rayne Branch of the Acadia Parish Library System (Rayne, Louisiana)

Whooping Crane milestones

We are immensely proud of our success in bringing back the Whooping Crane, one of the rarest of all North American birds. Through our unending efforts and with your support, the Whooping Crane population continues to recover and expand. Our innovations, partnerships, community outreach and science-based solutions have made the difference to this species, this year and in landmark years stretching back to our beginnings.



Ryan Michalesko/International Crane Foundation



Tran Triet/International Crane Foundation



Hannah Jones/International Crane Foundation

1890 – Once plentiful, the Whooping Crane becomes almost unknown in its former breeding range in the north-central U.S.

1941 – Non-migratory Louisiana flock reduced to only six birds after a hurricane. Flock that winters on Texas coast down to 13 pairs.

1967 – Whooping Crane eggs from Canada's Wood Buffalo Park transferred to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland; captive flock begins to grow.

2001 – Experiment with a program partner begins to teach Whooping Cranes a migration route with ultralight airplanes.

2011 – Nonmigratory Whooping Crane population reintroduction in Louisiana begins.

2025 – Total wild population of Whooping Cranes stands at almost 700, plus a captive breeding population of 133.

Captions left to right: A trail camera image of Whooping Cranes in their wintering grounds near Port Aransas, Texas; A Whooping Crane family at our breeding facility in Baraboo, Wisconsin; A single Whooping Crane among thousands of Sandhills on the Platte River in Nebraska; ICF crane care staff rear young Whooping Cranes in costume so the chicks don't imprint on humans and can be released into the wild.

1955 – Texas coast migratory Whooping Crane flock's breeding grounds in Canada discovered.

1989 – Due to our leadership and success in captive breeding, Patuxent sends half its Whooping Crane flock to ICF.

2005 – Whooping Crane chicks reared at ICF are released at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to begin migration south with older cranes.

2018 – Chick releases at Horicon Marsh and White River Marsh in Wisconsin initiated to increase survivorship in Eastern Migratory Population.

Bringing Financial Solutions to Rural Landowners

Because of ICF’s international reach, we’re able to bring global financial instruments to local communities, helping them access funding to improve their land and protect crane habitats. This year, in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust, and working with We Act, a carbon trading developer, we registered a carbon offsetting project in the threatened grassland and wetland crane habitat of the Drakensberg region of South Africa. This project is significant because it’s a way to compensate farmers for sequestering carbon in their grasslands. These practices also create optimal habitat conditions for cranes and other threatened grassland birds.

This project has long been in development in South Africa, and we’re now exploring ways to bring this financial solution to other places we work. Promising spots include places where we’ve made a deep commitment to better land use, like Zambia’s Kafue Flats and the Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve in



Our work helping register landowners in a carbon offsetting program in South Africa’s Drakensberg region is now leading to other potential projects around the world.

Mongolia. When carefully designed to support local communities and wildlife, carbon offsetting projects provide multiple benefits. They improve land management, lock carbon into the soil, and support diverse wildlife. Funding from the carbon offset goes to landowners, supporting communities in practices that conserve habitat.

Because the process of registering a project is complex and technical, our global expertise—and now growing experience in carbon markets—is a huge benefit we can offer to rural land users or herding communities, who would have difficulty accessing this funding source without our partnership.

In coastal Texas, we’re helping rural landowners secure federal money to permanently protect their wetland acreage from development. This year we joined with several regional conservation organizations in a Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership covering an eight-county area that includes freshwater wetlands, coastal prairies, river deltas and estuaries. By helping landowners place their land under easement through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, we keep this diverse habitat out of development and healthy for Whooping Cranes, other waterbirds and wildlife.

PERSISTENCE

Wherever we work, and however we do it, we keep showing up for cranes. Accomplishments we celebrated this year have been in the works for decades. We are persistent, adaptive and still here—like the cranes themselves.

Long-term Ecological Monitoring at Poyang Lake

The International Crane Foundation marked a third decade of painstaking scientific work in China this year with the publication of a lengthy book of research findings, “Study of the Changing Ecology of Wetlands and Waterbirds at Poyang Lake.” The research resulting in the book has been carried out since



1999, in collaboration with Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve and other partners. This publication represents countless hours spent by researchers in the field, enduring hot and humid summers and bone-chilling winters to measure water levels and water temperature, count birds, survey bird food sources, and more. This difficult and tedious work is the backbone of our ecological monitoring program at Poyang Lake. And though the work itself may seem routine, it represents ICF’s unwavering commitment to our vision for saving cranes.

ICF’s presence at Poyang Lake stretches back to 1985, when Co-founder George Archibald led a delegation from the United States and discovered a substantial number of Endangered Siberian Cranes. Poyang Lake is the largest freshwater lake in China and is considered the most important wetland in East Asia. Every year, 500,000 to 600,000 waterbirds winter

there, including 85% of the world’s Siberian Cranes, more than 90% of Oriental White Storks, more than 50% of Tundra Swans, and over 95% of the western population of White-naped Cranes.



Siberian Cranes at Poyang Lake.

The new publication summarizes and analyzes our monitoring results since 2010, comparing them with the results from the previous decade (which were published in 2011) to document the changes in the ecology of waterbirds and wetlands. For a long-term monitoring program, the longer the monitoring is carried out and the more data collected, the more valuable it becomes. Our twenty-plus years of systematic monitoring of waterbirds, vegetation and hydrology has produced data sets for researchers for their further exploration of the ecosystem. Our published research guides resource managers in decision-making on conservation and management of this vital habitat and supports our future plans, such as hydrological modeling of Poyang’s sub-lakes.

Maintaining Our Commitment to Key Wildlife Areas in Zambia and Russia

Many of our other projects around the world are equally longstanding and persistent. Our 35-year involvement in conserving the wetlands of the Mekong Delta of Vietnam resulted in the establishment of Tram Chim National Park. We’re now on the cusp of seeing Sarus Cranes reintroduced to this area where they once flourished. We have been a key player in the protection and management of the vast floodplains of the Zambezi River in Southern Africa since the early 1990s. This region is the stronghold for Vulnerable Wattled Cranes and shelters many other diverse and endangered birds and animals. Presently, we are co-managing two national parks, Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon, in a 20-year agreement for the Kafue Flats floodplain, which we signed in 2024.



Spring at Muraviovka Park.



Andrea Vale

Crane Conservation Department apprentices take part in a veterinary health check.

Our Commitment to the Next Generation: Crane Conservation Apprentices

Through the generous support of the Keefe Family Foundation, the International Crane Foundation is able to hire early-career aviculturists to apprentice with our Crane Conservation Department. These young scientists lend their strengths to the care of our captive flock, assisting with artificial insemination, egg incubation and management, chick rearing, and data collection. The apprentices also interact with visitors to our Crane Discovery Center by giving weekly public presentations.

George Archibald/International Crane Foundation

The International Crane Foundation has also been a long-term partner in the first privately run protected area established in Russia since 1917, Muraviovka Park. This year, we celebrated thirty years of Muraviovka Park, known by people who live near it as the “Island of Hope.” The park, in the Amur region of eastern Siberia, is a key reserve for White-naped and Red-crowned Cranes. Ornithologist Sergei Smirenski had been studying the cranes in the area since the 1980s, but at that time it was almost impossible to get government help to protect the habitat from harmful development. Eventually, a coalition of partners inside and outside Russia was able to secure a 64-year lease on 16,000 acres of wetlands and cropland. In 30 years of studies and ecological management, more than 700 species of plants and more than 300 species of birds have been documented, including all seven species of Russia’s cranes.

Keeping Sandhill Cranes Thriving

The recovery of the Sandhill Crane is one of the greatest conservation success stories of our time, a fact that might be hard to grasp if you’ve only known their current abundance. While the estimated population of Sandhill Cranes in the eastern population now numbers around 100,000, we nearly lost our Sandhill Cranes from the region, which was down to an estimated 25 breeding pairs in Wisconsin in the 1930s. Like the Whooping Crane, the Sandhill Crane almost disappeared due to hunting and to agricultural development of its key range. Remnant flocks in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Ontario enabled the population to bounce back. The International Crane Foundation works diligently on Sandhill Cranes to keep them thriving. This means dedicated, long-term research and attention to rising threats.



Ted Thousand

A family of Sandhill Cranes on their nest.

ICF carries out research and surveys on Sandhill Cranes every year. We study nest density, population trends, movement of the population, breeding success and many other aspects of their biology, behavior and more. Our research centered at Briggsville, Wisconsin dates back to 1991, when we began banding Sandhills. Almost 600 birds have been banded since then, allowing us to more accurately collect data on migration routes, home territories and other long-term research questions. We also closely track Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, which is a looming threat to this

population that spends time closely grouped during migration. And we work continually with farmers, finding ways to ameliorate the crop damage that Sandhills and other bird species can do, working towards financial solutions for farmers so they can afford treated seed (Avipel), and surveying farmer and landowner attitudes and needs.

Though the Sandhill Crane population has rebounded, we know how quickly that may change, and we keep track of rising threats such as the placement of wind and solar farms throughout the flyway. We don’t seek an endpoint to our work with this species. With the support of our partners and donors, we continue to take action to keep Sandhills healthy, safe and plentiful.

DETERMINED OPTIMISM



Dear Friend,

Everything we do is because you make it possible.

The stories in this report show you that to save cranes, we work in some of the most inaccessible and hostile places on earth. We work in numerous creative ways, using our data-driven expertise to meet basic local needs that help both people and cranes. And we're incredibly persistent. Day by day, in heat and cold, we take steps to accomplish our mission. We started our work in 1973, when a goal to save all 15 species of cranes seemed like a dream. And yet we know that we have made a mark by keeping hold of that dream. We face enormous challenges, and still we're positive that our efforts make a meaningful difference for cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds and flyways they depend on. We have more than hope for the future: when we look at what we've accomplished so far, we have optimism.

Every day we see the effect of people joining together to change the world. Our board and staff witness flocks of White-naped Cranes flying over leftover armaments in the Korean Civilian Controlled Zone. Thousands of rural Kenyans have clean water—and thus leave the wetland safe for Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes. A historic nature reserve in Russia remains a haven for cranes after 30 years of devoted management. School kids learn about the wonder of Whooping Cranes, a species that almost disappeared and is now growing. We marvel at the silhouettes of Sandhills winging overhead and rejoice that we hear their bugling again across much of their former range. Your commitment makes it happen. We are deeply grateful to you for joining in our determined optimism. The world is a better place because of the work we do together. Thank you.



With heartfelt gratitude,

Kari Stauffer
Vice President – Development

Whooping Crane families unison call near Marcellin, Saskatchewan.

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INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ended March 31, 2025 and 2024

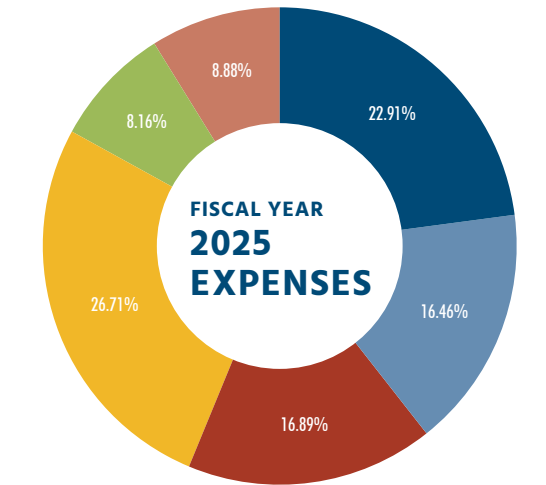
ASSETS	2025	2024
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$6,150,284	\$6,493,364
Accounts receivable	\$225,453	\$92,240
Unconditional promises to give, current portion	\$1,481,666	\$1,826,533
Inventories	\$130,006	\$96,131
Prepaid expenses	\$180,292	\$181,375
Total Current Assets	\$8,167,701	\$8,689,643
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	\$11,729,450	\$11,521,312

OTHER ASSETS		
Unconditional promises to give, long-term portion	\$2,624,157	\$3,847,513
Right-of-use Assets - Leases	\$353,246	\$140,871
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts and community foundation	\$267,263	\$1,207,455
Investments, restricted to endowments	\$4,383,731	\$4,257,319
Investments, other	\$36,137,515	\$35,709,132
Cash and Investments restricted for capital improvements	\$500,659	\$984,077
Construction in Progress	-	\$518,675
Other receivables	\$32,230	\$54,252
Total Other Assets	\$44,298,801	\$46,719,294
Total Assets	\$64,195,952	\$66,930,249

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Loan Payable to related party	-	-
Notes Payable	-	-
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$179,019	\$176,880
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	\$478,563	\$365,692
Deferred revenues and refundable advances	\$336	\$118,522
Lease Liabilities	\$103,823	\$34,122
Total Current Liabilities	\$761,741	\$695,216

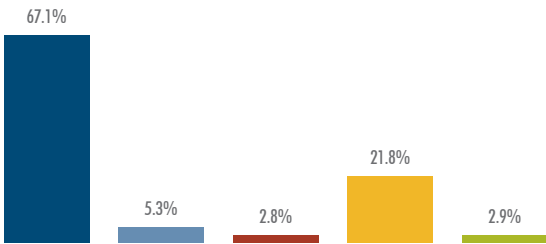
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease Liabilities	\$213,746	\$91,301
Total Liabilities	\$975,487	\$786,517

NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$44,264,949	\$43,613,564
With Donor Restrictions	\$18,955,516	\$22,530,168
Total Net Assets	\$63,220,465	\$66,143,732
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$64,195,952	\$66,930,249



Africa	\$3,495,202	22.91%
Asia	\$2,510,477	16.46%
North America	\$2,576,725	16.89%
ICF Center for Conservation Leadership	\$4,074,134	26.71%
General & Administrative	\$1,244,290	8.16%
Fundraising	\$1,355,158	8.88%

Total Program Services	\$12,656,538	79.20%
Total Supporting Activities	\$2,599,448	17.04%
Total Expenses	\$15,255,986	100.00%



CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS		
Contributions and Grants	\$8,281,398	67.1%
Memberships	\$655,330	5.3%
Sales and Tour Income	\$347,382	2.8%
Investment Income (Loss)	\$2,694,244	21.8%
Other	\$354,365	2.9%
Total Revenue	\$12,332,719	100.0%

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The International Crane Foundation collaborates with a global network of partners in more than 50 countries on five continents. We are grateful for investments of time, equipment, local knowledge and connections, grant funding, joint fundraising efforts and much more, from the organizations listed here.

African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, African Parks, Afriwet and ANAK (Senegal), Aldo Leopold Foundation, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Australian Crane Network, Beijing Forestry University, Calgary Zoo, Canadian Wildlife Service, Center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies, China Wildlife Conservation Association, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (Texas), Community Action for Nature Conservation-CANCO (Kenya), Crane Park Izumi (Japan), Crane Trust (Nebraska), Crane Working Group of Eurasia, Dallas Zoo, Dong Thap Province (Vietnam), Ducks Unlimited, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center (Louisiana), Global Educational, Economic and Social Empowerment-GEESE (Pakistan), Gulf Coast Joint Venture (Texas), Indiana Department of Natural Resources, International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission (IUCN), IPRC – Kitabi College (Rwanda), Kytalyk National Park (Russia), Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (Kenya), Kranichschutz Deutschland, Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana State University, Lumbini Crane Foundation (Nepal), Manor House and Thrive (Kenya), Margaret Pyke Trust and Rugarama Hospital (Uganda), Mekong Wetland University Network, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia; Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Uganda; Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Muraviovka Park (Russia), NABU, Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat) Zoo (Thailand), National Bird Banding Center (China), National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China; Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Parks Canada, Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve (China), Ramsar: the Convention on Wetlands (Switzerland), Red Crowned Crane Conservancy, Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (Bhutan), Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, San Antonio Bay Partnership, Smithsonian Institution, Southeast Zoo Alliance for Reproduction & Conservation, Texas Mid-Coast Master Naturalists, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Water Trade, The Nature Conservancy, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Geological Survey, Vietnam National University at Ho Chi Minh City, University of Wisconsin, Waterbird Network Korea, White Oak Conservation (Florida), Wildlife Science and Conservation Center, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, World Wildlife Fund, Zambia National Department of Parks and Wildlife, Zoological Park Organization Thailand.

Hannah Jones

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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.



International Crane Foundation

E11376 Shady Lane Road
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608-356-9462
www.savingcranes.org

Front cover: Whooping Crane Chick Rearing and Release apprentices Marie Haviland (left) and Emmeline Kraus (right) release a juvenile Whooping Crane reared at the International Crane Foundation into Wisconsin's White River Marsh State Wildlife Area in 2024. Eleanor Laack/International Crane Foundation

Back cover: Sandhill Cranes at Brookville Lake, Indiana. Wes Gibson

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