



QLF's International Stewardship programs work with organizations around the world to advance conservation. Currently these programs focus on three areas: Privately Protected Areas; the National Park Service Stewardship Institute; and World Heritage.

Privately Protected Areas



QLF Senior Vice President Brent Mitchell in July on a flyover of RPPN Sesc Pantanal. At 108,000 hectares (> a quarter-million acres) it is the largest privately protected area in Brazil, a chunk of the largest tropical wetland in the world. Seen here with the pilot is Dr. Cristina Cuiabáia, the reserve manager. On the right, a hyacinth macaw, *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, the largest of the parrot species. On IUCN's Red List as "vulnerable," there were only 18 individuals on the property when the reserve was created 20 years ago. Today the population numbers 450 and trends indicate the population will continue to increase. For more on QLF's work with Privately Protected Areas, see page 3.

National Parks



Katahdin Woods and Waters, Maine

We continue to work with the Stewardship Institute on projects of critical concern to the National Park Service.

World Heritage



Pimachiowin Aki, Canada

We increasingly assist the World Heritage Program of UNESCO through their Advisory Body, the IUCN.

National Park Service Stewardship Institute



Ottouquechee River, near Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park

A 20-Year Partnership

QLF has been an active partner with the US National Park Service for decades. We assisted in the establishment of Vermont's first and only national park, Marsh Billings Rockefeller, 20 years ago. We were a founding partner with the Conservation Study Institute, established with the Park to serve the National Park Service itself, through programs on the past, current practice and future of the parks. QLF led a rebranding of CSI to the NPS Stewardship Institute several years ago, an effort to better describe the work as more action-oriented than academic.



Our partnership is mutually beneficial for QLF and the National Park Service. Our work on these projects informs related projects elsewhere through our international programs; and Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park frequently hosts visitors learning through our exchange programs.

New Parks

The National Park System has expanded in the past decade, with 26 new units added. These include Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, where QLF has assisted with community engagement sessions. All of these new parks have been established successfully, but very differently.

For the past several years QLF and the Institute have worked with new park superintendents and other NPS officials to capture the experience of standing up these new parks. This knowledge will be used to help NPS develop more strategic approaches to new parks, a set of standard procedures that can be adapted to each new park situation. We also anticipate that the Institute will be asked to support new parks in their early stages of development, as we did at Katahdin Woods and Waters.

National Park Service
Stewardship
INSTITUTE



Other partnership projects have focused on “Scaling Up” landscape conservation; urban parks; and networking to connect staff working in remote locations across the country. We are also serving the people of the parks through programs addressing the harassment and workplace issues that have been widely reported in the national news.

Privately Protected Areas

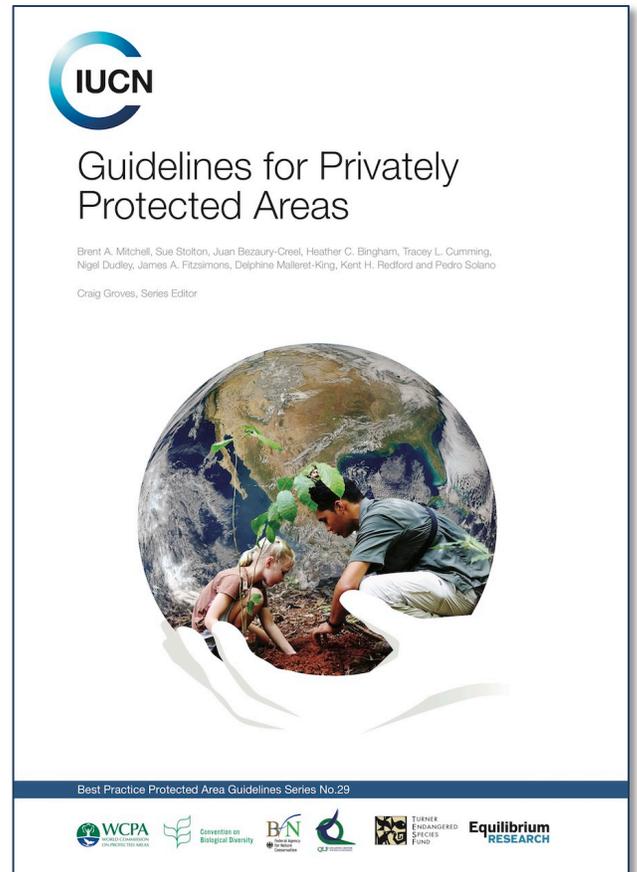


In the mid-1980s, QLF sought to encourage private land conservation in eastern Canada through exchange with land trusts in New England. Land trusts began on the US side of our region, but at the time there was only one land trust in all of the Atlantic Provinces. From that beginning we have promoted land conservation in other regions, first in Latin America and the Caribbean (leading to the first conservation easements in Belize and Mexico, for example) and later in Central and Eastern Europe.

In 2008 we sought to expand our impact by partnering with IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (see page 4 for more on IUCN). We successfully created a Specialist Group on Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship, which we have chaired for the past decade. We promote and connect innovation in private conservation and elevate awareness to international bodies such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, which had previously been largely blind to work on the ground.



NamibRand Nature Reserve, Namibia



The Specialist Group conducted a global assessment of private conservation, *The Futures of Privately Protected Areas*, the first of its kind. Over the past two years we have been developing *Guidelines for Privately Protected Areas*, to be launched in November 2018. This will serve as the functional, international counterpart to the US Land Trust Alliance's *Standards and Practices*.



Supporting World Heritage



The World Heritage program recognizes places of Outstanding Universal Value, and provides a measure of protection in the form of international scrutiny should sites be threatened. In administering the program UNESCO recognizes either natural or cultural heritage, and more recently, mixtures of both. For decades we have collaborated with one of UNESCO's two official advisory bodies, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Reflecting QLF's long history of working at the intersection of nature and culture, we are part of a group helping UNESCO better evaluate and advise "mixed" World Heritage Sites.

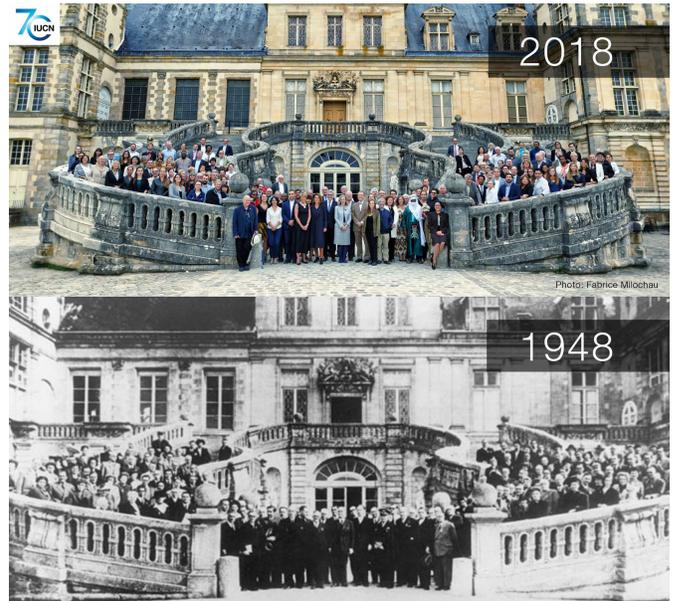
We conduct field evaluations of nominated sites, and represent IUCN in strategic planning with the other, primarily cultural heritage Advisory Body, the International Council of Monuments and Sites.

Pimachiowin Aki, Canada

We were called in to help resolve governance issues at Pimachiowin Aki, a Massachusetts-sized section of boreal forest in Manitoba and Ontario stewarded for 7,000 years by the Anishinaabe people. In the summer of 2018 it was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Lake Ohrid, Albania

In October 2018 we conducted an evaluation of Lake Ohrid, a three-million-year-old lake on the border of Albania and Macedonia. Albania suffered under a communist dictatorship far longer than other Balkan countries, and is still emerging from that difficult period.



IUCN 70th Anniversary

We were invited to a workshop in France in September to commemorate the founding of IUCN at Fontainebleau 70 years ago. The workshop focused on landscape conservation, again a reflection of our work at the intersection of natural and cultural heritage. The photo of participants recapitulates the first founders' meeting, which included Hal Coolidge. Hal and his wife Muffy were early supporters of QLF.

After meetings at UNESCO Paris we continued to Rome for a select group discussion on improving the collaboration between the two World Heritage Advisory Bodies, IUCN and ICOMOS. And in November we are assisting an ICOMOS Symposium in San Francisco on the same topic.

QLF Atlantic Center for the Environment, 4 South Main St., Ipswich, MA 01938 • QLF.org

Photos by Haroldo Palo, Jr., Jefferson Prado, Pimachiowin Aki Corporation, NPS/L. Shahi, and Brent A. Mitchell