

Briefing Notes • QLF INTERNATIONAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

We're at a place where we are making a real difference in conservation, stepping up from specific projects to the realm of global policy. We are positioned to have great impact at high institutional levels internationally, but still grounded in local experience.

When the program began in the mid-80s we learned that there was only one land trust in eastern Canada. So, we started encouraging private conservation through exchange between Canada and New England, until every province had at least one land trust. (We can't claim full credit, of course, but we had an important role precipitating a strong movement in Canada.) We then did much the same thing for protecting areas in other regions. First the Caribbean, then across Latin America, then Central and Eastern Europe, and so on. We helped set up a facility for American owners of land in Canada to be able to donate their land for conservation and receive tax relief in the U.S.

We're now working on natural solutions to biodiversity loss and climate change through protected areas work at global level, and are recognized leaders on issues of land stewardship, governance of protected areas, and nature/culture connections.

According to (dramatically incomplete) official statistics, <0.5% of protected areas globally are privately protected. In the eyes of international bodies and conventions, privately protected areas are operating in the shadows, or invisible.

1. IUCN WCPA Specialist Group on Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship
 1. Working to elevate the recognition, understanding and integrity of private conservation world-wide
 2. Private conservation ignored in global policy, e.g., Convention on Biological Diversity
 3. Prevent "paper parks" ahead of 2020 targets
 4. Over-emphasis on *establishing* protected areas and not enough on *sustaining* over time
2. World Heritage
 1. Nature Culture - Connecting Practice
 2. Governance of protected areas
3. National Park Service
 1. Founding partner, Stewardship Institute (20 years)
 2. Worked with the highest levels of the agency on cutting-edge issues
 3. New Parks and Partnerships – private support for public benefit
 4. NPS Urban Agenda

Impacts

Trained key conservation leaders in over 50 countries

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

Triggered first conservation easements in Mexico & Belize

Citizen engagement in conservation in Andes

First "land trusts" in Central/Eastern Europe

European land stewardship network, initiated from Catalonia, Spain

Established global specialist group on privately protected areas; pushed new policy

QLF has long been interested in the connections between cultural heritage and nature conservation.

Recent Activities

Best Practice Guidelines on Privately Protected Areas – expected launch November '18 at CBD Egypt

Evaluation mission to Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage nomination (Canada) for IUCN

Urban Parks in Chile for Department of the Interior ITAP (one of only two non-Chileans involved)

Three peer-reviewed articles in PARKS, the international journal of protected areas

Culture change in the National Park Service – response to hostile work environment allegations

Support to new parks, e.g., Katahdin Woods and Waters, Maine

20th anniversary sessions at Vermont's only national park and UVM on *What Stewardship Means Today*

Webinar for Biodiversity Finance initiative of UN Development Program

Stewardship – Efforts to create, nurture and enable responsibility in landowners and resource users to manage and protect natural and cultural resources.