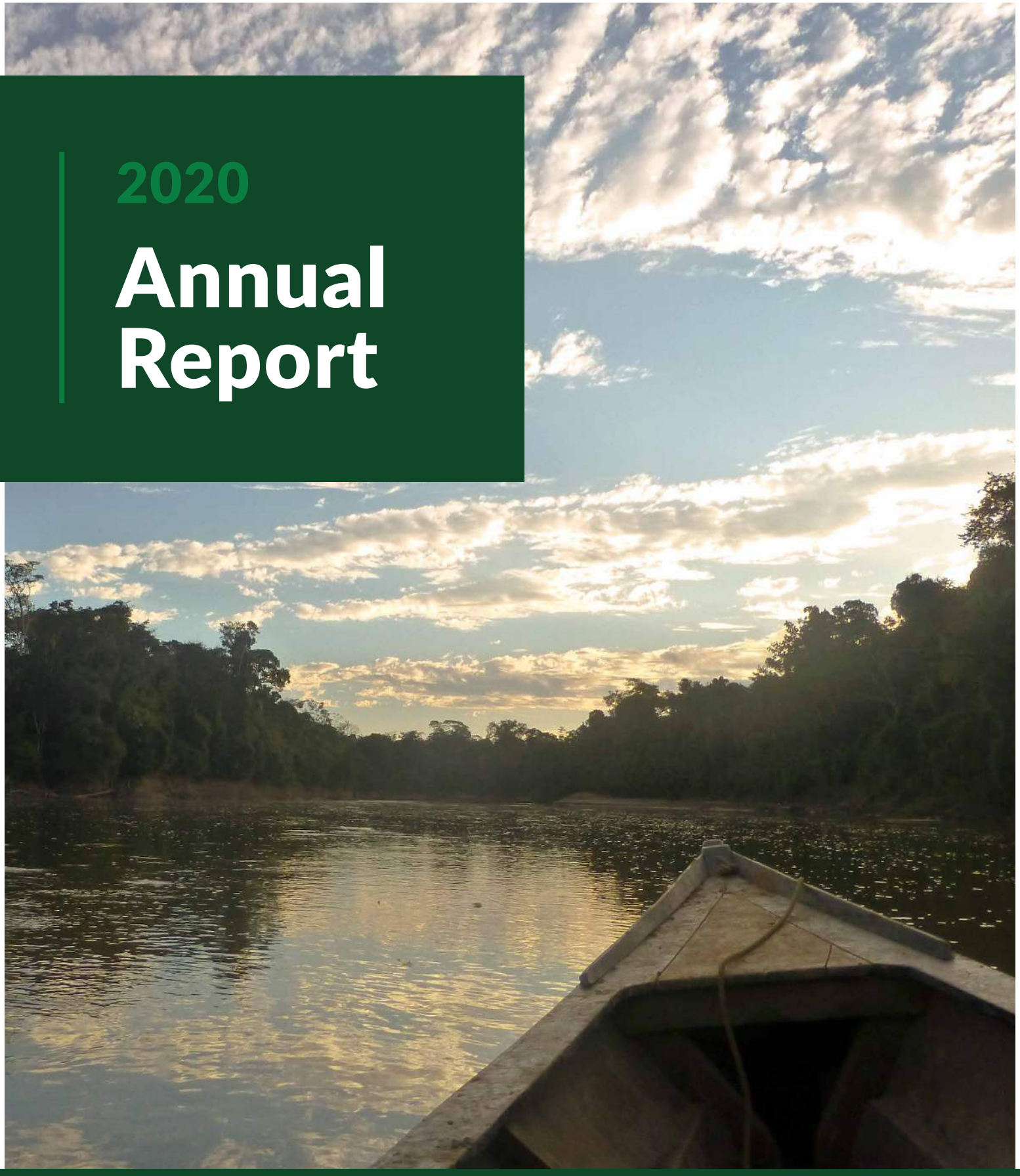
2020

Annual Report



WILD FORESTS & FAUNA

Learn how WildFF supports communities and its local leaders on the frontlines of forest conservation and reforestation

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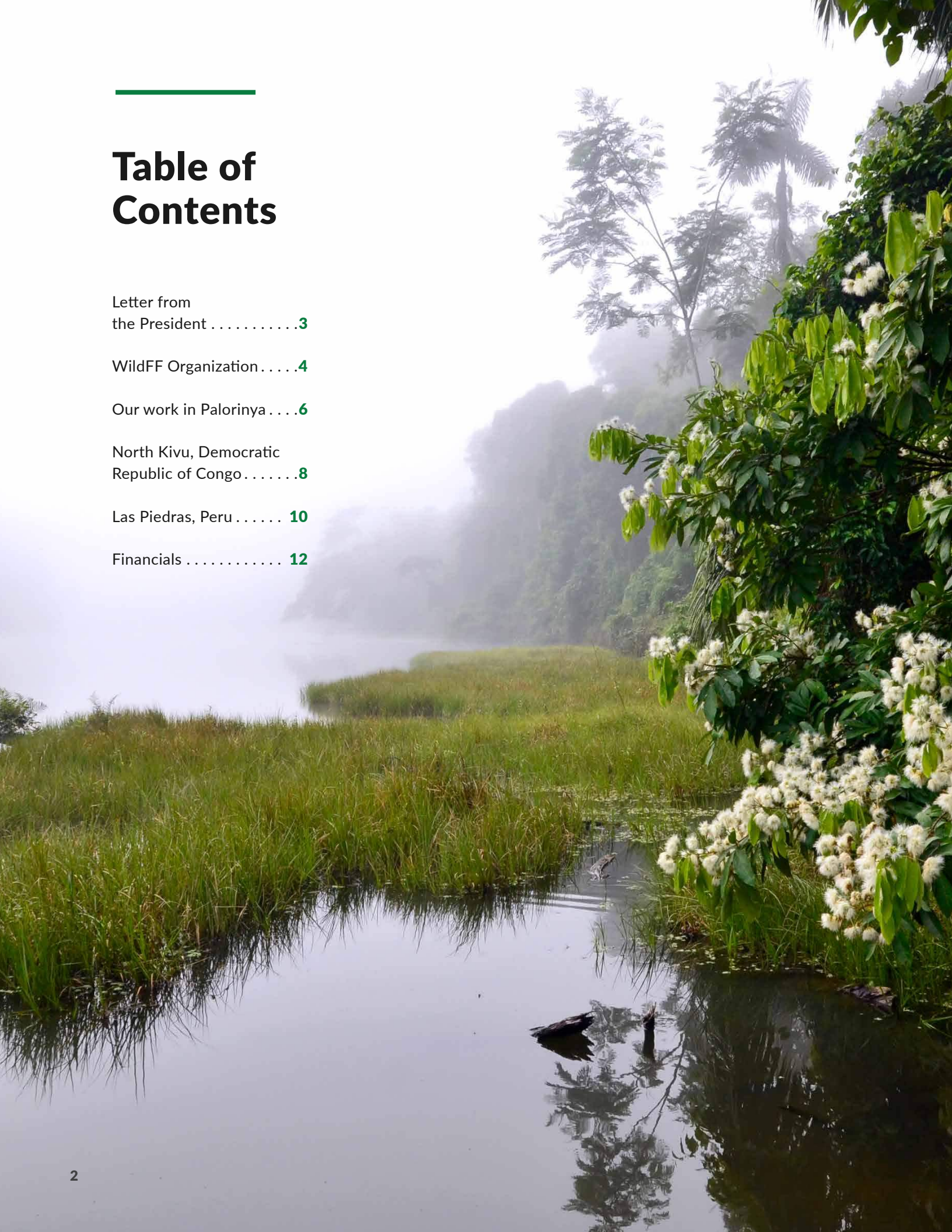


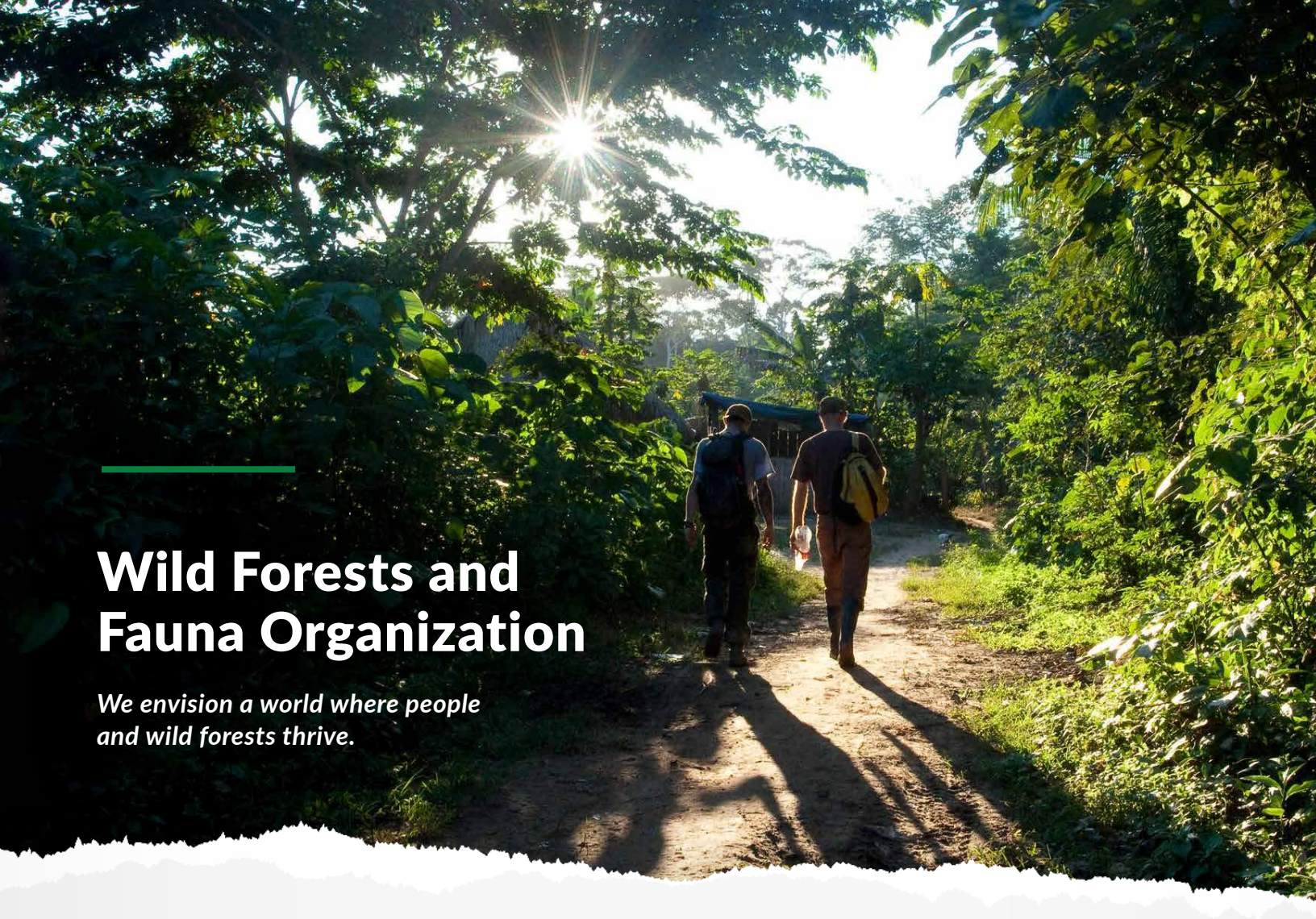
Letter from the President

Dear WildFF Supporters,

Unquestionably, 2020 was a challenging year for all. 2020 was also a year that forced us to see things differently and to focus on what matters most. At WildFF, we spent this last year focused on what has always mattered the most to us: Continuing our field-based efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Peru, and Uganda working with our partners on the ground to conserve and restore globally important forests. Covid-19 disrupted our field operations around the world, but fortunately, due to the hard work of our partners and the continued support of our funders, we were able to safely plant 54,000 native trees and distribute 2,000 fuel-efficient cookstoves in support of local people and forests in Uganda. Our efforts to assess the impacts of our efforts in Uganda's Palorinya refugee settlement also advanced greatly in 2020 with the launch of a new research project funded by the Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation. In addition to our work in Uganda, we also continued working with our partners in Peru to maintain the protection of the Las Piedras Amazon Center and with our partners in DRC to reforest the Kalonge Nature Reserve. None of this critical work would have happened without our supporters who stepped in during a difficult time to support WildFF, its projects, and its partners. As you will read in the pages that follow, this critically-timed support not only helped us continue our field-based projects, but also to invest in new media and improved back office operations. It is thanks to you that as we look ahead to 2021, we can be excited about the continued growth of WildFF and the positive impacts of our collective efforts in support of people, wildlife, and forests.

With gratitude,

Dr. Jason J. Scullion
Co-Founder and Board President



Wild Forests and Fauna Organization

We envision a world where people and wild forests thrive.

Our Theory of Change

Landscape-scale conservation:

We focus on high-value forests and select projects that have the potential to make system-wide changes and that have long-term impact.

— **Current or past projects**
- Las Piedras Amazon Center (LPAC)
- Native Seeds Project, Northern Uganda
- Palorinya Refugee Settlement, Northern Uganda

— **Future initiatives**
- Primate and forest conservation in the Congo Rainforest, DRC
- Las Piedras Corridor, Peru

Capacity building in communities:

We seek out places where forest-dwelling communities already have a stake in protecting their home. By working with local leaders, we provide educational, financial or organizational capacity to meet their needs.

— **Current or past projects**
- Future Leaders Sustainable Business Program, Peru
- Acholi Wise Women, Northern Uganda: literacy programs, microloan investments, and selling of forest products
- Reforestation, cookstove implementation, and educational workshops, Palorinya Refugee Settlement
- Kalonge Nature Reserve, DRC

— **Future initiatives**
- Community conservation, North Kivu, DRC

Our Mission

WildFF is a diverse network of science and business professionals that activates local efforts to protect and restore globally important forests. We address regional conservation issues by connecting stakeholders, building capacity in local communities, and propelling ideas into action.

We believe what makes WildFF different is our investment in communities living on the frontlines of threatened forests. There are many local leaders and organizations eager to improve their communities in a sustainable way, yet lack the resources and connections to make a significant change. We take the time to understand the culture and local traditions and how it may translate to capacity building and economic opportunity. Communities who find a balance between sustainable land use and meeting economic needs is what will keep forests–their homes–intact for future generations.

Market-based conservation:

Our conservation strategies always have a business edge. We aim to build an economic foundation for the people by finding place-based, sustainable solutions on which to make a living. This ensures that the forest has more value by remaining intact rather than being logged.

- **Current or past projects**
  - LPAC ecotourism lodge, Peru
- **Future initiatives**
  - Carbon project in Peruvian Amazon

Evidence-based solutions:

We stay apace with the latest scientific advances in conservation as well as policy shifts to ensure our strategies are effective. We also continually evaluate our process and optimize as needed.

3-5 year commitment:

Our ultimate goal is to jump start community-based projects, not stay for the longterm. We ensure they have the resources and the confidence to continue developing constituencies for sustainability and creating economic incentives for themselves and future generations.

From Proof of Concept to Regenerative Model

Our work in Palorinya

CASE STUDY: APPLYING OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Uganda's Palorinya Refugee Settlement is home to 122,000 South Sudanese refugees, who rely on local trees to for fuel wood. An estimated 14.7 million trees were cut between 2015 and 2018, 94% of which were used for firewood and charcoal production. Without intervention, Palorinya will have no remaining tree cover by 2023, leaving the landscape at high risk of desertification and soil infertility, which will profoundly impact the communities that live there.

At WildFF, we partner with place-based organizations to become allies of the vision that local communities hold for the future of their environment. This strategy is born out of the recognition that conservation efforts require locally-rooted solutions. Starting with a pilot project in 2016 in Gulu, Uganda, we created a holistic reforestation model which aimed to restore lost forests and create landscapes that support nature and people well into the future.

This approach has now been adapted, replicated and scaled to achieve even greater impact. Working closely with the Moyo District Forest Office (DFO), WildFF takes a landscape approach to reforest the region while tackling the root cause of deforestation and landscape degradation: firewood harvesting and charcoal production. Establishing a regenerative model that reduces reliance on forest resource extraction, we encourage and empower local refugee communities to protect and restore the landscapes they depend on. This is achieved through a combination of resource provision, skills training and sensitization workshops delivered at the household level.

Local, fast-growing trees that provide food and fuel are carefully raised by the experienced Moyo DFO team, and are then distributed to local refugee communities who are trained in agroforestry production practices, learning how to care for their seedlings in the face of changing rain patterns and soil fertility resulting from climate change. This is accompanied by implementation of fuel-efficient stoves, built by youth refugees who are trained on how to build and maintain them. Not only does this reduce unsustainable harvesting, but it provides income generation for young refugees who experience the highest unemployment rates in the settlement.

In the long run this approach will increase food security by promoting local biodiversity, improving soil hydrology, introducing crop resilience, increasing long term crop yields and will relieve pressure on the local forests and nearby forest reserves. This design is also replicable and scalable throughout the refugee settlements in West Nile and Northern Uganda.

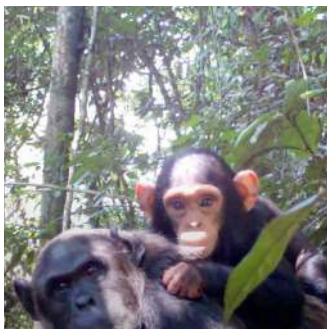
WildFF and New Frontiers

North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Kalonge Nature Reserve was WildFF's first project in the Congo. In 2019, we partnered with the DRC-based NGO, Paradis des Primates, to establish a 94-acre wildlife reserve. Within 5 acres of the reserve, 150 members of the Masiki-Kalonge community planted over 1,500 native trees. Since then, we have our sights set reforesting the rest of the reserve and developing an agroforestry initiative with the surrounding communities.

To continue scaling this model in DRC, we have identified a region in North Kivu, a strategically important area of forest that is an ecological corridor between the established and well known Tayna Nature Reserve and the Maiko National Park. It is the natural habitat of several protected and endangered animals, such as gorillas and chimpanzees. While the Tayna and Maiko Parks are protected by the government and other international NGOs, the local communities living between the parks are left to their own defenses.

Our partners at Paradis des Primates have made several field trips to talk to the communities to gauge their interest in partnership. Some common ground include helping them legalize their land (notarization with local authorities), working on action plans for sustainable income, and organizing park ranger programs. In addition, we aim to raise the community's awareness on the process of protecting and conserving fauna and flora, and reaffirming how humans and forests can thrive in parallel. Camera traps will be provided to assess the biodiversity of the area and together we can determine specific local needs, threats and opportunities for supporting conservation in the corridor.




PARADIS DES PRIMATES
LA VALLEE
TOLLARI

WildFF and New Frontiers (CONT.)

Las Piedras Corridor Peruvian Amazon

Building on more than seven years of support of our Peruvian partner ARCAmazon in developing and protecting Las Piedras Amazon Center (LPAC), this year we expanded our collaboration with local concessionaires under the umbrella of the Las Piedras Corridor Initiative. With the pandemic shutting down international travel, LPAC was also shut down for most of the year. This shutdown has been challenging on several levels, but it has also provided the LPAC leadership team the opportunity to think about the future of the project, including increased local collaboration.

This focus included coordinating two meetings with local concessionaires and evaluating the potential of forest carbon projects in the corridor.

We are exploring forest carbon as a viable economic opportunity for local people alongside sustainable agriculture and ecotourism. To prepare for the launch of a forest carbon project in the Las Piedras watershed, we invested in the development of new maps of the Las Piedras Corridor and promotional materials that describe the uniqueness of the watershed and the threats it faces. Taken together, 2020 was a difficult year for our projects and partners in Peru's Las Piedras watershed, but together we met the challenge and used the opportunity to strengthen our partnerships and institutional foundations for the years ahead.

Bringing the story of intact forests to life

Aside from our on-the-ground projects, we've been working hard to develop, strengthen and ultimately grow our organization. In an increasingly digital world, we realize the importance of communications and bringing our story and the story of our partners to life. This is why we've created a series of YouTube videos to explain what we do and why, one of which focuses on the importance of intact forests. Search "Wild Forests and Fauna" on YouTube and learn more about the origins of many of our projects such as Native Seeds, Palorinya Refugee Settlement and Kalonge Nature Reserve.

We've also updated our website to raise awareness on our approach to conservation, where we work, and how to engage with us, which can be found at **wildff.org**.

Financials

Total revenue from grants, gifts and donations	**$68,470**
Total Expenses	**$136,226**

Program **$108,074**

Overhead **$28,152**

Total Assets - Cash	**$27,159**

Keep up with the latest WildFF News!

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WILD FORESTS & FAUNA

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