

# NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE

00:00:00

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

DEADLINE FOR HUMANITY  
TO ACHIEVE CARBON-  
NEUTRALITY TO AVOID  
CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

2050

00:00:01

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

00:00:02

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

DEADLINE FOR A WORLDWIDE  
INITIATIVE TO PROTECT 30% OF  
EARTH'S LAND AND OCEAN AREA

2030

00:00:03

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

00:00:04

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THE CLOCK IS TICKING.

00:00:05

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

WE DON'T HAVE A MOMENT TO LOSE.



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At Conservation International, we are proud to have some of the leading minds in natural and social science, policy, finance and business working together to improve people’s lives through the care and protection of nature. Their insights are helping societies develop and thrive in a more sustainable, equitable way.

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July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

\* Deceased



**Dear friends,  
For decades, Conservation International  
was swimming against the current.  
As various crises came and went, our  
cause was often relegated to the margins.  
Nature was considered a “nice-to-have,”  
and conservation an elitist exercise —  
the dominion of wayfarers, royals and  
sportsmen. That is no longer the case.**

Over the last two years, a clear consensus has emerged: Securing the health of Earth’s climate, ecosystems and biodiversity is essential to the survival of all people. The world now recognizes that environmental collapse will not only disproportionately affect marginalized people, but touch all communities, all businesses, all consumers, all governments, all voters. And every week brings a new reason for urgency: droughts and floods; fires and superstorms; heatwaves and cold snaps. Everywhere, weather is becoming more extreme — and as cracks emerge in the world’s great ice shelves, we are entering uncharted territory. The climate crisis has arrived, and it has only just begun.

In a moment so grave, our work is no longer fringe — but our optimism does feel radical. The tasks ahead of us are herculean, but there are so many reasons for hope. Opportunities to make a difference are all around us, and we have a larger coalition of the willing than ever before. Now, we must determine how to do as much as possible, as quickly as

possible. What ecosystems offer our planet and its people the most benefit? What financial partners can help us scale our efforts rapidly? What communities hold the wisdom we need to secure nature and its life-sustaining bounties?

The future of our movement must be inclusive. For too long, the history of conservation was defined by colonialism and callousness. Many of the world’s most iconic parks and preserves sit atop sacred Indigenous sites, denigrating rich cultures and undercutting the extraordinary contributions these communities have to offer. This cannot continue. Conservation organizations must transform themselves and allow themselves to be transformed. This is not only the right thing to do—it’s the only way we can accumulate the knowledge and vision required to surmount the obstacles that lie ahead.

I have been a part of Conservation International since its inception in 1987. Our intentions have always been good. But we have not always been attentive to unintended consequences. That has changed. We are reckoning with the whole of our legacy—both the positive and negative—to ensure that wherever we go from here, we go in the right way, with the right partners, guided by compassion, respect, and a commitment to listening and learning. We must be an unyielding ally to all those who share the belief that Earth must thrive for humanity to thrive. That is the only path forward. Thank you for walking it with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Seligmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Seligmann" clearly legible.

**PETER SELIGMANN**  
Chairman of the Board



**Dear friends,**  
**Salmon are remarkable fish. They spend their formative years in clear freshwater streams, and then, in the span of a few months, transform for a new life in the ocean. Their morphology, physiology and behavior all change — and the darting speckled fish becomes a silver torpedo able to master a new saltwater realm. Nature is full of organisms that can evolve, and adapt, to thrive in turbulent times.**

These lessons are not lost on us. We know the coming decade will be a marked departure from the past. Beyond the obvious effects of COVID-19, trends in nationalism, technology and climate will render many current operating models obsolete. Conservation will not be spared. To succeed, we must adapt.

Our transformation is well underway.

We had a remarkable year at Conservation International—one that would have felt impossible even a few years ago. In virtually every facet of our work—partnerships and philanthropy, field and finance, science and sustainable livelihoods—we exceeded the benchmarks we set. In the few areas impacted by the pandemic, we are already catching up.

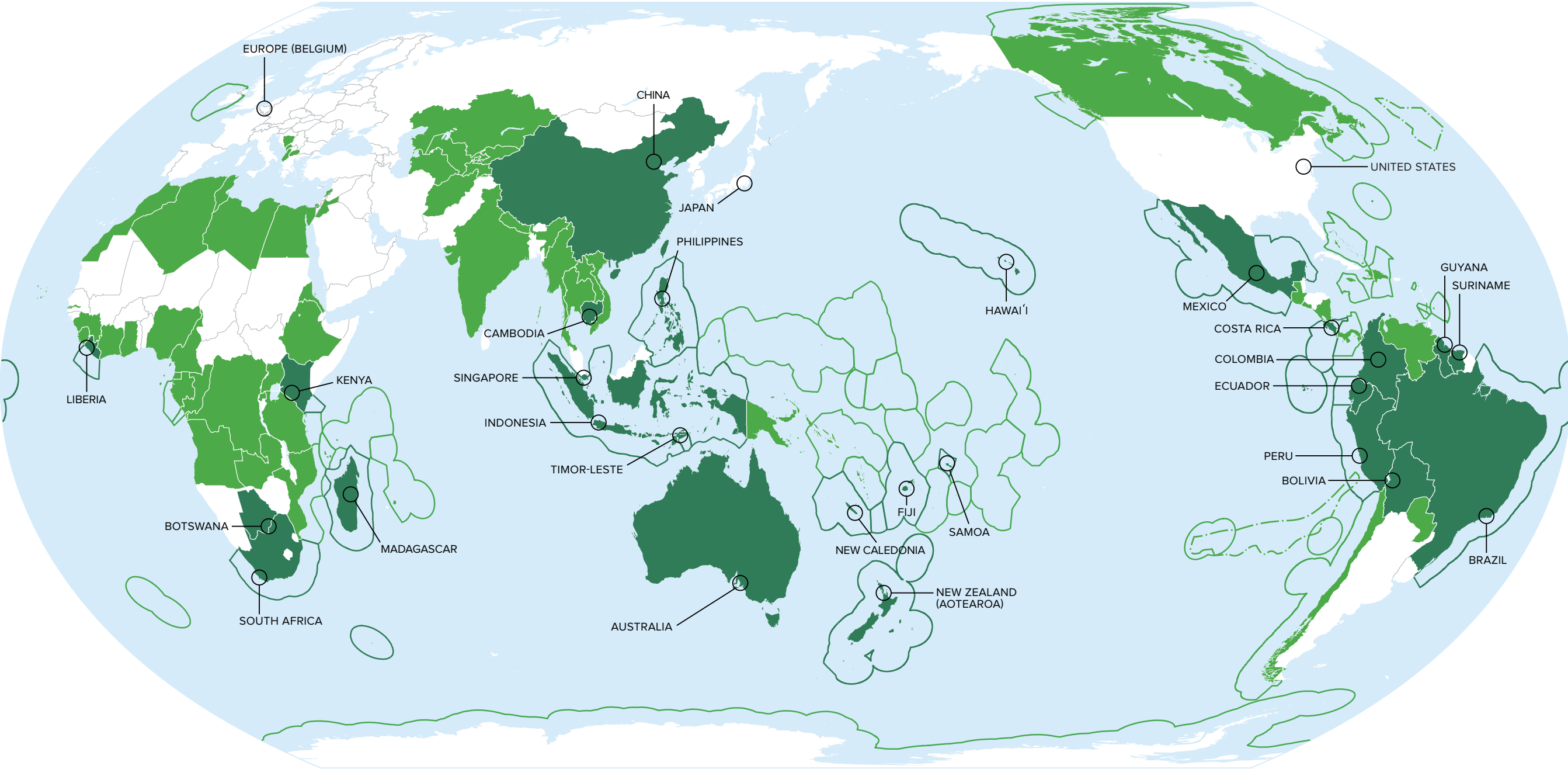
In the following pages, you will find an overview of this year's accomplishments, including major advances in climate finance, translational science and planet-positive economies. Underpinning all this progress is a renewed focus on how we do our work. I want to highlight two qualities that will define our future.

The first is compassion. The last two years have offered a window into the unique burdens that every person bears, both inside and outside the workplace. As a society, we have collectively re-discovered the transformative power of empathy—and learned how to better care for one another in a fragile, fragmented world. In this spirit, we are investing heavily in our organizational culture, to ensure that cohesion and compassion are an immutable part of our day-to-day work—and moral anchors that ground us through periods of change. In practice, this has meant training our entire staff in compassion-based ethics, deepening our partnerships with Indigenous peoples and local communities, and strengthening our practices so that we continue to be an equitable place to work.

The second value is creativity. Uncertainty has become a permanent part of modern living, and business-as-usual will not be sufficient to confront the historic challenges before us. With help from our partners at IDEO, we have embraced the tenets of design thinking, a human-centric approach to management. This practice will help us future-proof the systems propelling us toward our goals — and ensure that we can remain nimble and impactful, no matter the circumstances.

For more than three decades, Conservation International has continuously evolved to meet big challenges and operate in unfamiliar worlds. The coming years will be no exception. Adaptation is in our DNA. I am confident that with our dynamic team and the support of our amazing community, we, like the salmon, will not just survive but succeed in this turbulent new world.

**DR. M. SANJAYAN**  
 Chief Executive Officer



WHERE WE WORK

Starting with our first project in Bolivia more than 30 years ago, Conservation International has helped support 1,200 protected areas across 77 countries, protecting more than 601 million hectares (1.5 billion acres) of land and sea. With offices in 30 countries and projects in more than 100 countries, Conservation International’s reach has never been broader, but our mission remains the same: to protect nature for the benefit of us all.

The marine boundaries referenced in this map are sourced from Marine Regions and the land international boundaries are sourced from Natural Earth; both are in the public domain. The boundaries and territory/country names used by Conservation International or by Conservation International’s partner organizations and contributors on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by Conservation International of those boundaries or country names.

\* has a Conservation International Office and contains one or more projects that receive Conservation International financial support

\*\* contains one or more projects that receive Conservation International financial support

\*\*\* areas beyond national jurisdiction

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Land

200 Nautical Mile Limit (UN Convention)

ABNJ\*\*\*

COUNTRY PROGRAM\*

INVESTMENT COUNTRY\*\*

N/A



00:00:16

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# 01 NATURE FOR CLIMATE

00:00:17

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PARÁ, BRAZIL, © FLAVIO FORNER



In the second year of a global pandemic, Conservation International pressed ahead to confront climate breakdown, the pivotal challenge of our time.

We helped forge a breakthrough at international climate negotiations, which for the first time recognized the central role of nature as a climate solution—a position that we worked tirelessly for years to advance. Our researchers helped to pinpoint the places in nature that humanity must protect. And we worked with corporate partners to funnel millions of dollars toward protecting and restoring forests, perhaps humanity's greatest ally in the climate fight.

Here are a few of the highlights.

01



02

01: At the UN climate talks in Glasgow, delegates put nature front and center to confront the climate crisis.

02: Conservation International CEO M. Sanjayan joined financial leaders in announcing a pledge to end deforestation by 2025.

## NATURE TAKES CENTER STAGE

“Years from now, the 2021 UN climate talks in Glasgow may well be remembered as a turning point—the point at which the Paris Agreement’s aspirations finally began to turn into action,” according to Shyla Raghav, vice president of climate change at Conservation International.

For perhaps the first time, nature took center stage at the climate talks, thanks to years of strenuous effort—by Conservation International and others—to raise the profile and importance of nature as an essential solution to the global climate crisis. The 2021 climate talks saw unprecedented commitments and attention on nature, including a declaration by nearly 150 countries to end forest loss by 2030; a pledge by more than 30 financial institutions to eliminate deforestation from their portfolios by 2025; and \$1.7 billion in pledges from governments and foundations to support the efforts of Indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting tropical forests.



00:00:20

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00:00:21

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Nearly 150 countries committed  
to end forest loss by

2030

More than 30 financial institutions  
pledged to eliminate deforestation  
from their portfolios by

2025

PORTO SEGURO, BAHIA, BRAZIL © FLAVIO FORNER





03

03: “Hear Me While You Can” digital billboards, like this one in Switzerland, brought the sounds of nature to cities around the world.

But perhaps most significantly, the talks saw consensus on a matter that had long eluded agreement: global rules for carbon trading among countries to achieve their climate commitments. For the past six years, Conservation International worked with like-minded governments and partners on securing a deal for these rules (known as Article 6) that will drive increased investment to natural climate solutions and help speed climate action. Conservation International served as a trusted adviser to several countries and our technical inputs directly shaped the favorable final outcome.

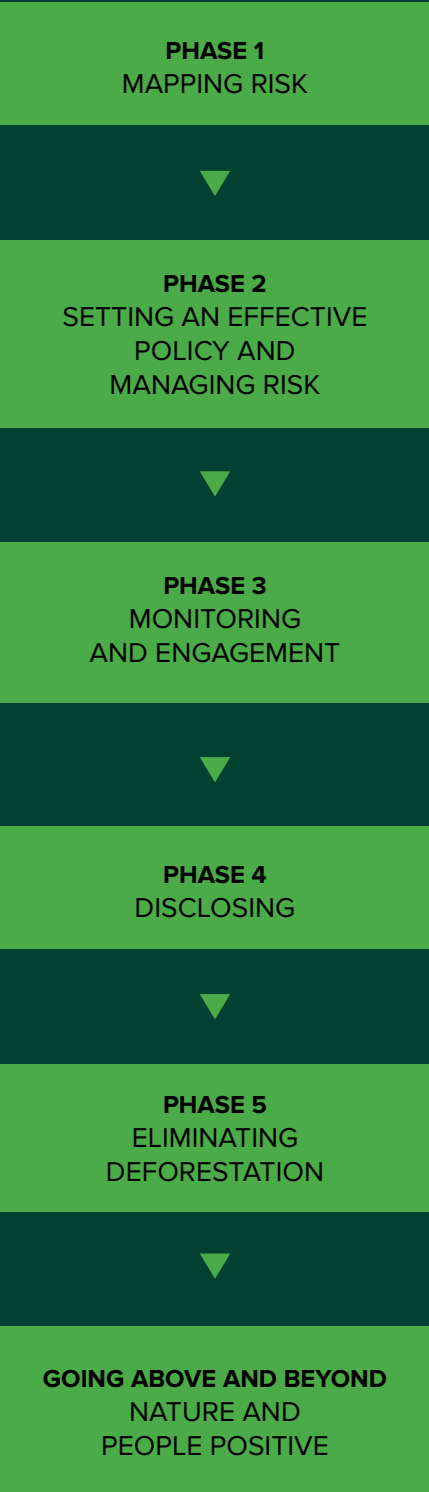
As a next step, Conservation International and partners developed a roadmap to guide financial institutions in meeting their pledge to address deforestation risk in their portfolios and will be working to gain additional commitments from across the finance sector.

It wasn’t the only way we ensured that nature’s voice was heard.

During the climate talks, Conservation International partnered with advertising company Clear Channel to launch the “Hear Me While You Can” campaign, which brought the sounds of nature to the streets of Glasgow — and beyond.

By scanning codes on digital billboards in 22 countries around the world, passersby were transported to some of nature’s most majestic soundscapes — from the dawn chorus of birds on the Philippines’ highest peak to the haunting calls of Madagascar’s lemurs. The campaign invited the public to immerse themselves in the many voices of nature and learn more about why we need to protect it.

THE ROADMAP





00:00:24

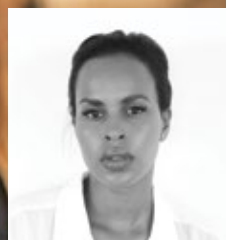
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

00:00:25

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

“As the climate crisis unfolds, those least responsible — the Global South, Indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities — are the ones suffering the most. That’s a profound injustice. I’m proud to work with Conservation International to mend humanity’s relationship with Earth — and do so in a way that gives voice to frontline communities. Every single person can make a difference on climate, and harnessing that collective power is the only way to protect our shared future.”

**Sabrina Elba**  
Actress & Model  
Europe Council & UK Board member



SAMBURU, KENYA. © GEORGINA GOODWIN



# A FRACTION OF EARTH’S LAND, OUR CLIMATE FUTURE

Groundbreaking new research by Conservation International scientists for the first time mapped nature’s stashes of carbon—pinpointing the ecosystems that humanity must protect to avert a climate disaster.

Half of Earth’s “irrecoverable carbon”—defined as carbon that could not be restored by 2050 if emitted into the atmosphere—is highly concentrated, on just 3.3 percent of Earth’s land. The carbon in these reserves, mainly peatlands, mangroves and old-growth forests, is equivalent to 15 times the global fossil fuel emissions released in 2020.

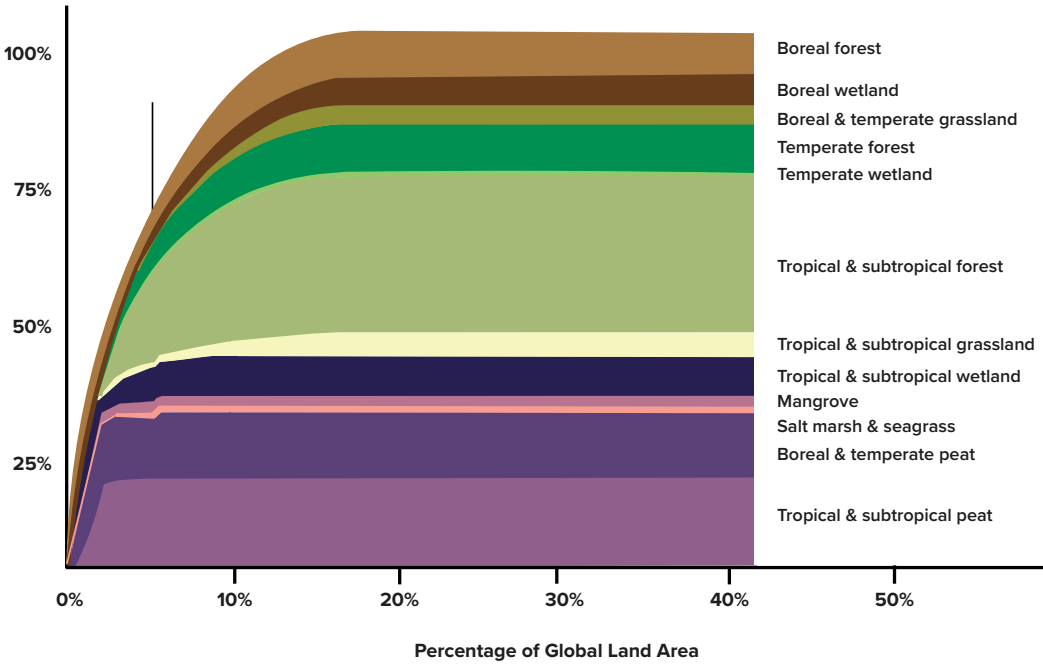
If emitted due to human activity, this carbon would prevent humanity from limiting global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the benchmark for a “safe” climate.

**The good news:** Nearly quarter of the world’s irrecoverable carbon is already located within protected areas.

**Even better:** Increasing the amount of land under protection in key areas by just 5.4 percent would keep 75 percent of Earth’s irrecoverable carbon from being released into the atmosphere.

“Protecting a relatively small portion of land can secure the majority of irrecoverable carbon,” said Conservation International scientist Monica Noon, the study’s lead author. “Mobilizing resources to conserve these areas can have huge returns for the climate, biodiversity and human well-being.”

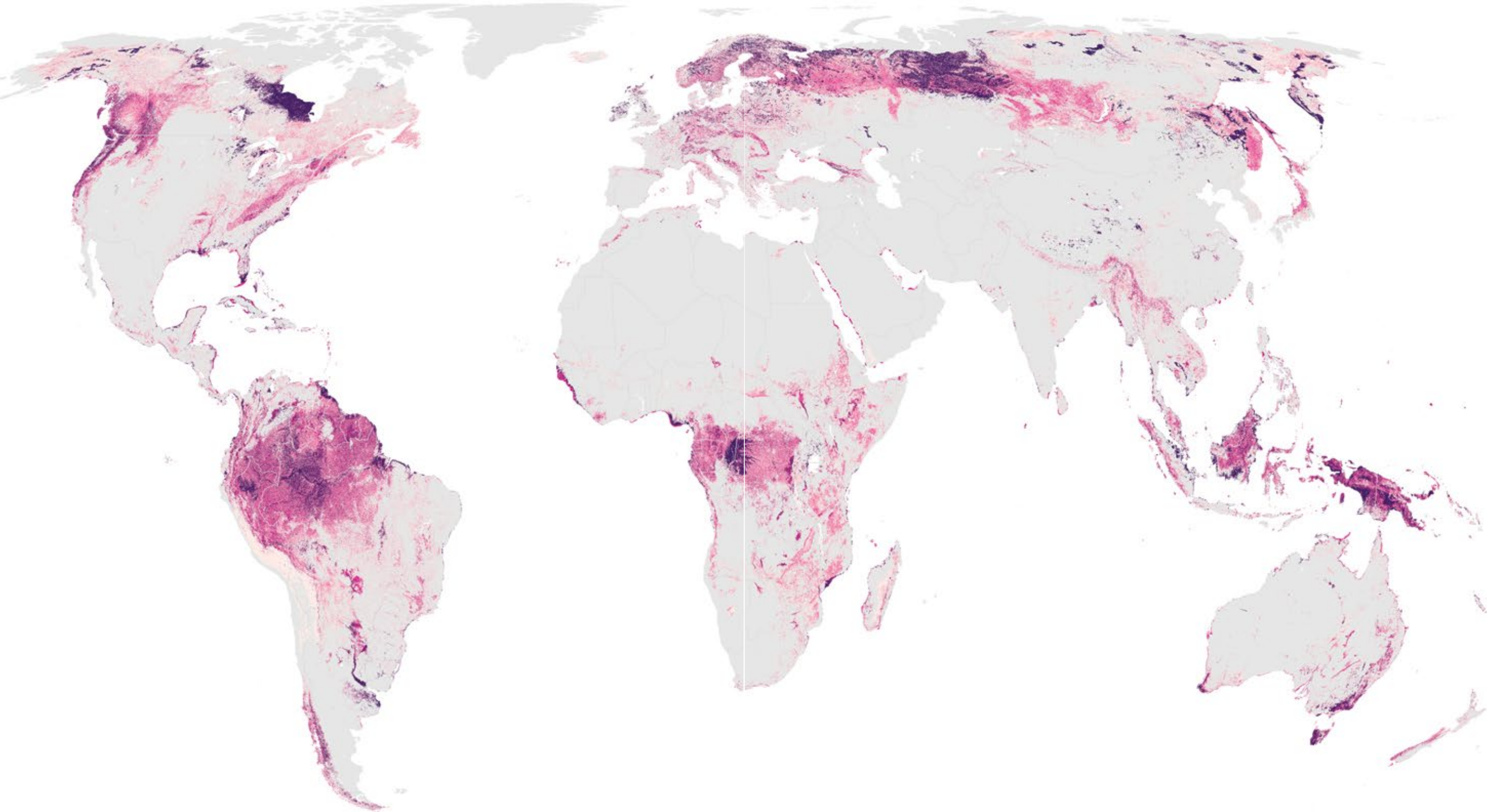
THE ECOSYSTEMS THAT HOLD THE KEY TO OUR CLIMATE FUTURE



The majority of Earth’s irrecoverable carbon is concentrated in a relatively small land area. From Noon et al. 2021. Mapping the irrecoverable carbon in Earth’s ecosystems. Nature Sustainability.

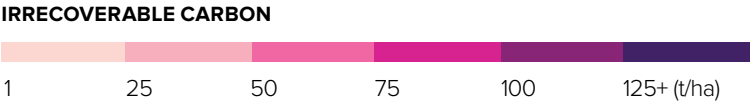
ODZALA NATIONAL PARK, REPUBLIC OF CONGO. ©ISTOCK.COM/GUENTERGUN



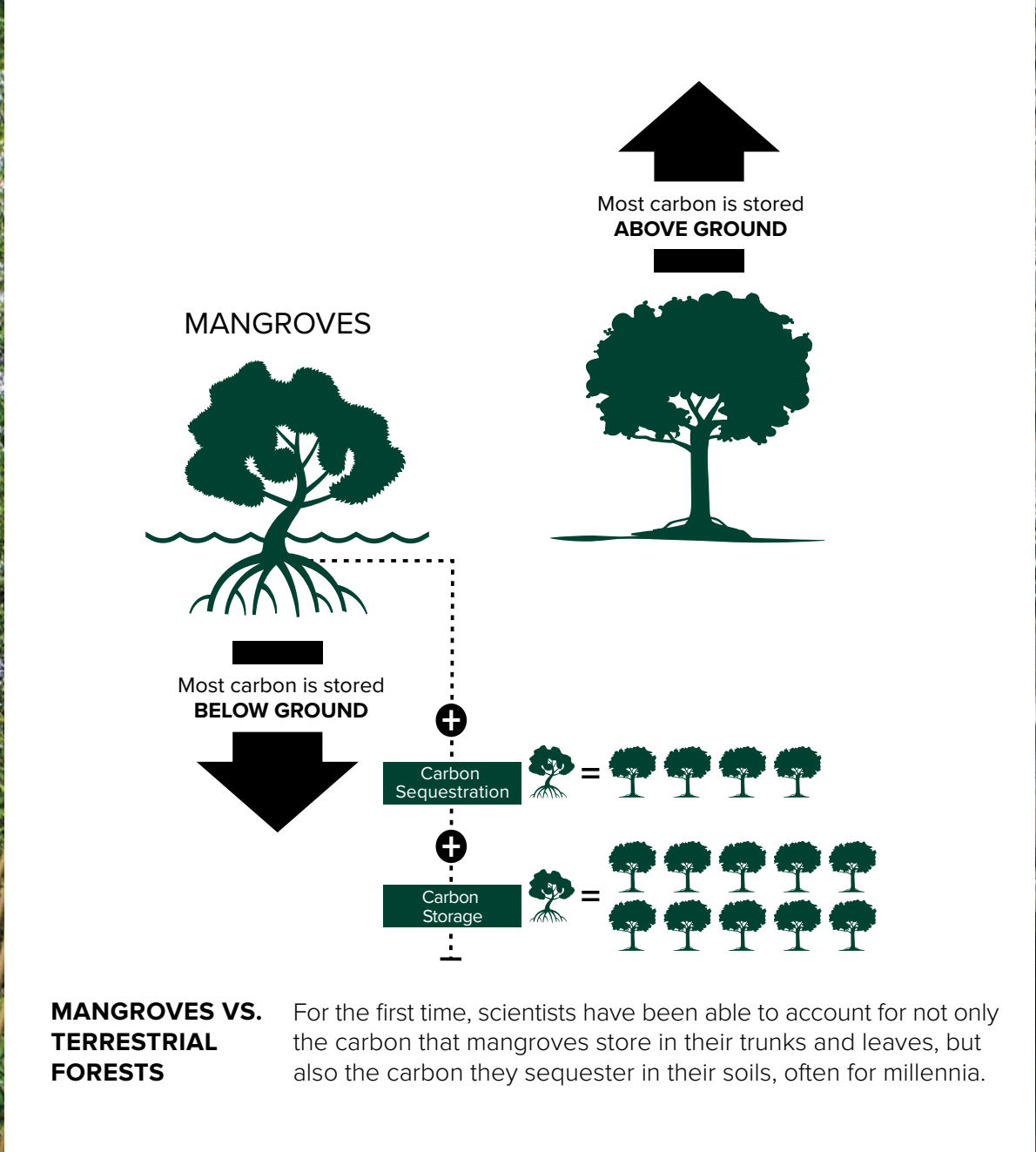


**WHERE EARTH'S  
'IRRECOVERABLE  
CARBON' LIES**

Groundbreaking new research by Conservation International scientists for the first time mapped nature's stashes of climate-warming carbon—pinpointing the ecosystems that humanity must protect to avert a climate disaster.







## ON COLOMBIA'S COAST: BLUE CARBON

A new way to protect coastal forests—and the massive amounts of climate-warming carbon they store—took root in Colombia, thanks to a project developed by Conservation International and partners.

For the first time, scientists have been able to account for not only the carbon that mangroves store in their trunks and leaves, but also the carbon they sequester in their soils, often for millennia.

Why does it matter? Until now, this “blue carbon” hasn’t been accurately measured—effectively shutting mangroves out of carbon markets and excluding them from financing needed to protect them.

Conservation International’s project helps create long-term funding that is expected to conserve and restore mangroves in Cispatá, an 11,000-hectare (27,000-acre) mangrove forest along the South American country’s Caribbean coast.

With its carbon stores fully calculated, the Cispatá forest can now be valued for its climate benefits and included in carbon markets. Not only that: This critical step also opens a path for other coastal ecosystems around the world to be added to carbon markets.

Revenues from the sale of carbon credits will benefit local communities near Cispatá, contributing to sustainable livelihoods and compensating landowners for protecting their mangroves. The income will also provide the initial funding needed to develop a sustainable ecotourism program and other economic activities for those who rely most on the mangrove forests.

“The mangrove forest gives us so much. It shelters us from the winds, and provides food and resources,” said Ignacia de la Rosa Pérez, a leader of the San Antero community in the Cispatá region. “For us, it’s like a protective mother. Our goal is to conserve it for the future.”



00:00:32

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

“At Kering, we have always believed that collaboration is integral to ensure positive, lasting change. As a partner, Conservation International lends their expertise and deep understanding of maximizing pathways to ensure positive impacts for both nature and communities. We are dedicated to safeguarding biodiversity and scaling regenerative farming practices along fashion’s global supply chains and Conservation International has been pivotal in our mission.”

Marie-Claire Daveu  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
Kering, Fashion Pact Founder & Partner



00:00:33

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EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA. © TROND LARSEN



# WHAT IS “CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY”?

Improving the management of “working forests”—that is, forests that supply wood for lumber, energy, paper and other products—opens a significant opportunity for countries to reach their climate and biodiversity targets.

Climate-smart forestry practices vary depending on the forest, but they can include blending unharvested natural forests with areas that are commercially harvested, growing trees for longer periods of time between harvests, limiting harvest sizes, removing invasive species and restoring habitats for threatened species. When designed carefully, together with local stakeholders, these practices can have measurable and cost-effective impacts to mitigate climate change.

01: CI Ventures invested in Komaza, a sustainable forestry company that works with smallholder tree farmers in Kenya.



01

# INVESTING IN “CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY”

To stop climate breakdown, we must emit less planet-warming greenhouse gases. But even if the world stopped using fossil fuels tomorrow, we would fail to avert a worst-case climate scenario if we did not also reverse the destruction of ecosystems that absorb and store carbon. The protection, management and restoration of forests represents the largest cost-effective natural climate solution—but receives a tiny fraction of all global climate funding.

Conservation International has partnered with Apple and Goldman Sachs on a \$200 million

“Restore Fund,” which will invest in climate-smart forestry projects to remove carbon from the atmosphere while generating a financial return for investors.

The fund aims to remove at least 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually from the atmosphere—equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of more than 200,000 cars—and show that scaling up investments in forest management and restoration can be financially viable.

The Restore Fund aims to remove at least

**1 MILLION**

metric tons of carbon dioxide annually from the atmosphere

Equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from more than

**200,000**

cars



01: KENYA. © WILL SWANSON FOR KOMAZA 02: CARDAMOM MOUNTAINS, CAMBODIA. © JEREMY HOLDEN



00:00:36

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00:00:37

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02

# OCEAN CONSERVATION AT SCALE

TIMOR-LESTE, © CRISTINA MITTERMEIER/SEALEGACY



00:00:38

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It's the origin and engine of life on the planet. It provides billions of people with food. It has already saved humanity by absorbing excess heat from our warming climate.

And it is in peril.

The ocean will provide for us only as long as we take care of it. To that end, Conservation International made major strides in science and policy to protect our planet's most important feature, and the people who depend on it.

Here are some highlights.



01

00:00:39

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02

01: In the Seychelles Islands, the Blue Nature Alliance will support local communities' conservation priorities.

02: The Pacific Island nation of Palau has more marine species than any other area of similar size in the world.

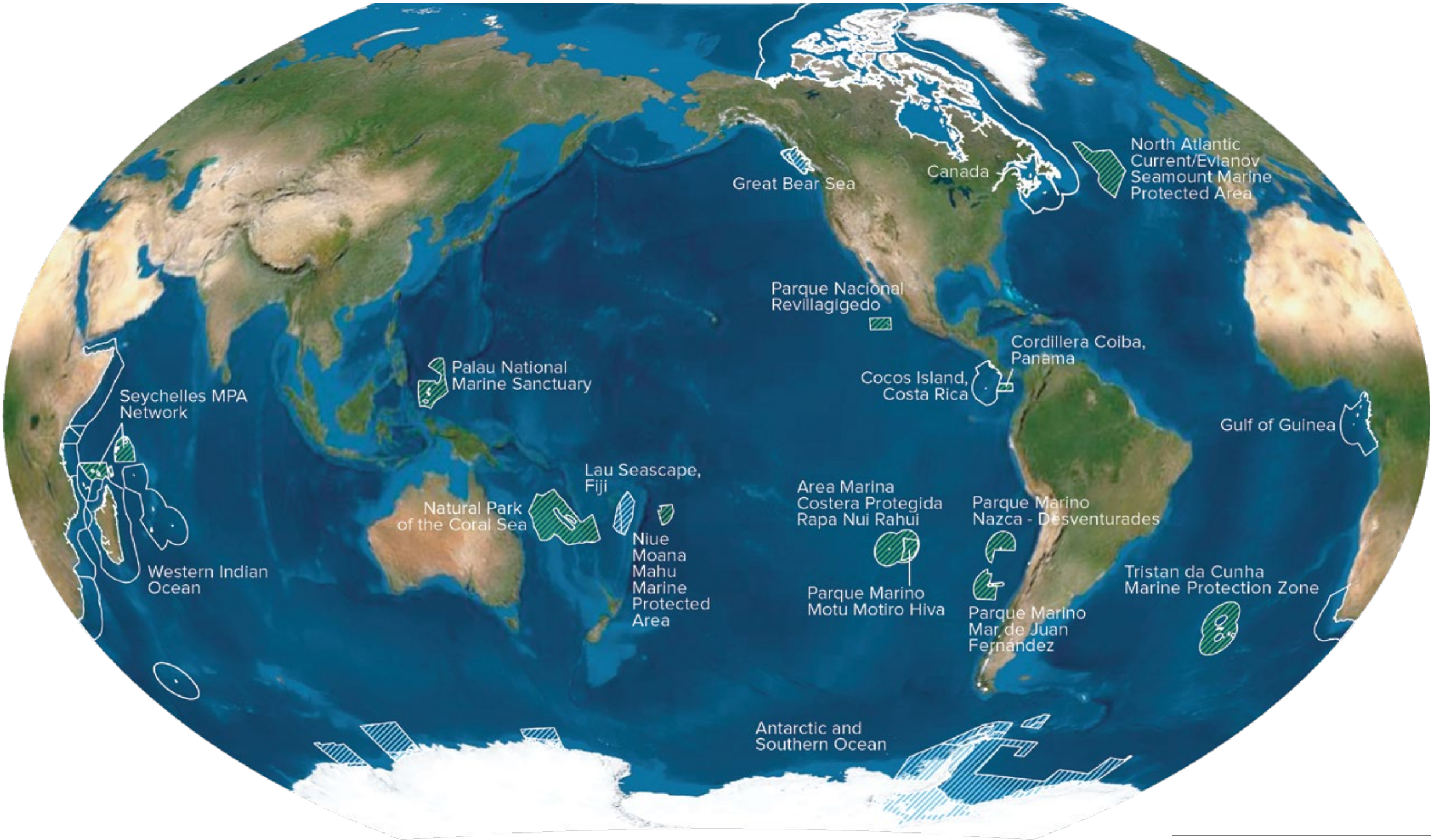
## ALLIANCE FOR THE OCEANS

In 2021, Conservation International and the Pew Charitable Trusts led the launch of the Blue Nature Alliance, a global partnership to promote ocean conservation at an unprecedented scale. With additional support from the Global Environment Facility, the Minderoo Foundation, and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, the alliance is moving the world closer to "30x30" — a worldwide initiative for governments to designate 30 percent of Earth's land and ocean area as protected areas by the year 2030.

01: SEYCHELLES, © LYNN C/SHUTTERSTOCK 02: PALAU, © ETHAN DANIELS/SHUTTERSTOCK



THE FOCUS LOCATIONS  
OF THE BLUE  
NATURE ALLIANCE



KEY

NEW/UNKNOWN SITE

NEW

IMPROVED





01

# SMALL COUNTRY MAKES BIG SPLASH FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

Costa Rica announced it would expand its protected ocean area from 2.7 percent to more than 30 percent of its national waters—a major leap that puts the Central American country nine years ahead of a global deadline to protect nearly a third of the world’s land and sea.

The expanded Cocos Island National Park, off the country’s Pacific coast, will now cover more than 5 million hectares (12.3 million acres)—a staggering 26 times larger than its previous size. In addition, Costa Rica’s Bicentennial Sea-mounts Marine Management Area will expand to 11 times its previous size, now encompassing more than 100,000 square kilometers (38,600 square miles)—roughly equivalent to the size of Iceland.

Conservation International worked closely with the Costa Rican government, local partners and communities to complete environmental surveys, consultation processes, and technical and policy work that helped make this designation a reality.

“At a time when it is critical to protect nature to avoid a biodiversity crisis, we are excited that over the past four years this collaboration has led to expanded marine protections that will benefit livelihoods and nature beyond our country,” said Ana Gloria Guzmán, executive director of Conservation International’s Costa Rica program.

Costa Rica announced  
it would expand its  
protected ocean area from

2.7%

to more than

30%

# TUNA MIGRATIONS A CLIMATE JUSTICE PROBLEM, STUDY FINDS

Out of sight, a growing climate justice issue threatens to upend the industry around the world’s most consumed fish.

It has long been known that climate change is forcing Pacific tuna to migrate into open seas in search of warmer waters, and away from the Pacific islands that depend on them. What was not known was just how bad this growing problem could be.

Last year, a team of experts—led by Conservation International scientist Johann Bell—found that an exodus of tuna could cut the average catch by 20 percent in the territorial waters of 10 Pacific Island states. According to Bell’s research, published in the high-profile journal Nature Sustainability, such a reduction in catch could result in losses of \$140 million per year by 2050. Tuna-dependent island nations and territories—already facing a precarious future due to sea-level rise—would lose up to 17 percent of their annual revenue from the loss of fishing fees.

Meanwhile, unregulated and unsustainable fishing on open seas could severely dent tuna populations that provide a critical source of food the world over.

To address this, Conservation International is planning a large-scale, seven-year initiative with 14 Pacific Island countries to secure the benefits that tuna provides to Pacific communities and protect the critical ecosystems that support tuna populations.

- 01: Off Costa Rica’s Pacific coast, the Cocos Island National Park provides a habitat for endangered sharks, sea turtles and marine mammals.
- 02: A Conservation International-led study found that climate change could trigger massive economic losses for Pacific islands that rely on the tuna industry.



02



00:00:44

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00:00:45

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An exodus of tuna  
could cut the average catch  
by a staggering

20%

in the territorial waters of  
10 Pacific Island states...

Such a reduction in catch could result  
in losses of \$140 million per year by

2050





01

01: Women fill 90 percent of land-based jobs at fisheries, including cleaning, processing and packaging—but often face systemic discrimination.

# WOMEN IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

The fishing industry is facing a reckoning, with forced labor, child labor and human trafficking on fishing vessels having spurred a global push to address human rights abuses on the high seas. However, what happens after the fish are caught has remained largely hidden. A Conservation International study last year helped shine a light on the millions of onshore fish workers—predominantly women—who spend long hours cleaning and packaging fish in factories, maintaining community fish farms

and often filling low-paying or informal positions throughout seafood supply chains around the world. In these roles, women face a different—but equally egregious—set of human rights abuses, the researchers write. Governments and companies alike must take responsibility to change, says Conservation International scientist Elena Finkbeiner, the study’s lead author. Fortunately, policy frameworks—developed in recent years by Conservation International—are already providing a roadmap to a more equitable future for the industry.

# CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL IN THE WHITE HOUSE

In 2022, Conservation International’s oceans lead, Senior Vice President ‘Aulani Wilhelm, took on a temporary, one-year role with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) as Assistant Director for Ocean Conservation, Climate and Equity. In this role, Wilhelm will assume responsibility in OSTP’s Climate and Environment Division for science, technology, and policy considerations around the ocean; fisheries; interactions between human, natural, and technological systems; and equity and inclusion efforts. She will also help lead interagency discussions across the federal government, engaging broad sets of stakeholders and technical experts on these topics. This appointment is a testament to Wilhelm’s expertise and experience, and a signal that Conservation International’s approach to marine conservation is one worth following.

# SOCIAL EQUITY IN MARINE CONSERVATION

Marine conservation will not be effective or durable unless it includes the full participation of the communities whose lives and livelihoods depend directly on the oceans. Through the Blue Nature Alliance, Conservation International is incorporating social equity as a core value that informs our work around the world. To help provide a foundation for this effort, a new paper published last year—with seven Conservation International staff contributing—explores these issues and calls for steps for improving social equity in ocean conservation efforts. This research reviews how justice, equity, diversity and inclusion can be better integrated in marine conservation policy and practice, a significant resource for the field.



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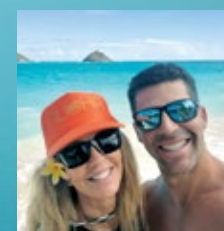
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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

“We feel a deep and enduring connection to the Surf Conservation Partnership and its mission to protect precious marine and coastal areas. Engaging with this initiative so intimately — financially, intellectually and emotionally — has been one of the greatest joys of our lives. We are proud to be founding partners of this inspiring movement.”

**Shannon & Bryce Skaff**  
Founding Partners of The Surf Conservation Partnership



INDONESIA, © IStock.com/FREIE KREATION



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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

03

# PLANET- POSITIVE ECONOMIES

CHYULU HILLS, KENYA, © AMI VITALE



Can people and nature thrive together? This question is at the core of our work creating self-sustaining conservation models that can be adapted from one region to another. Conservation International is proving that a better future is possible through our work on “planet-positive economies” that put nature at the center of economic development.

Here are some of our highlights from the past year.



01



02

01: In Liberia’s coastal villages, fisheries provide a vital source of income and protein. Conservation International is working with the government to account for the economic value of nature.

02: East Nimba Nature Reserve, Liberia.

## CHARTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Liberia is rich in abundant and irreplaceable nature, with some of the last intact forest strongholds in West Africa. The country’s ecosystems provide food and incomes for a whopping 70 percent of its citizens, as well as habitat for critically endangered species such as the western chimpanzee and African forest elephant. However, as Liberia’s economy has grown, experts have warned that these ecosystems could become victims of unsustainable oil palm development, urbanization and logging.

To help Liberia ensure that its economic growth remains sustainable, Conservation International and NASA helped the government map where valuable ecosystems are located, how they have changed over time and what critical services they provide to people. The results have enabled the government to determine the true extent of Liberia’s forests, mangroves and freshwater ecosystems, and the essential services they provide to livelihoods and long-term economic resilience. The next step: for decision-makers to use these maps to promote the value of nature in Liberia when planning the country’s economic development.



# OUR “SEASCAPES” MODEL WORKS, RESEARCH SHOWS

A unique approach pioneered by Conservation International is helping countries balance protection and production for the marine eco-systems they depend on.

Our seascape approach aims to connect marine protected areas within a broader system of sustainable ocean management. Seascapes are typically large, multiple-use marine areas of ocean and coastal habitats with similar characteristics such as thriving biodiversity, vibrant ecotourism and sustainable fishing practices.

Sifting through 15 years of data and conducting surveys across five of Conservation International’s seascapes — one in Brazil, two in Southeast Asia

and two in the Pacific—researchers identified best practices for establishing and maintaining them. This research affirms that successful seascapes rely on traditional knowledge from Indigenous peoples; they are supported by governments at all levels; and they incorporate methods for monitoring the social impacts of conservation efforts. We are using lessons learned from this analysis to design five new emerging seascapes.

Not only can these lessons drive the creation of future seascapes, they are also supporting movement toward the global “30x30” goal, an initiative to protect 30 percent of land and 30 percent of sea by 2030.



01: The Abrolhos Marine National Park in Brazil is home to a diverse coral reef system, but overfishing and development have put the area at risk.

Our approach to  
creating seascapes can  
support the global

30  
X  
30

goal, an initiative to protect  
30% of land and sea by

2030





01



02



03

- 01: San Juan de Challana, in Guanay municipality, Bolivia. The municipality recently expanded a protected area in these Andean highlands.
- 02: The “devil-eyed” frog, previously known only from a single individual observed more than 20 years ago in the Zongo Valley, Bolivia, was recently rediscovered.
- 03: Spectacled bears inhabit the Guanay Protected Area.

## A NEW HAVEN IN THE HIGHLANDS

A small community in the Bolivian Andes is making a huge impact on one the most unique and biodiverse ecosystems in the world. With support from Conservation International, the municipality of Guanay passed a law to conserve a huge swath of pristine cloud forests and vast grasslands blanketing the western slopes of these green highlands.

The protected landscapes span an area nearly twice the size of Singapore and are home to vibrant wildlife, from spectacled bears—South America’s only native bear species—to Peruvian dwarf deer. The area will also protect one of the only known populations of *Oreobates zongoensis*—the so-called “devil-eyed” frog, which was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered on a recent Conservation International expedition in Bolivia. By choosing to protect a large part of its land, Guanay has set an example for other municipalities in Bolivia and across South America, spreading the message that conservation at the local level can have a big impact on protecting nature.



“It’s an immense honor to work with the Conservation South Africa team, a group of dedicated and talented professionals committed to securing healthy ecosystems to increase food security, build resilience to climate change and foster sustainable economic development. It is in the interest of all of us — business leaders, governments and NGOs — to work together to positively link economic growth, transformation, poverty alleviation, the environment and climate change.”

**Simon Susman**  
Chair

Conservation South Africa Board of Directors





00:00:60

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

04

# INNOVATIONS IN SCIENCE AND FINANCE

00:00:61

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

INDONESIA, © SHAWN HENRICH'S



Conservation International’s work rests on a foundation of policy-relevant science and innovative financing. Last year, we made major strides in both.

Here are a few highlights.



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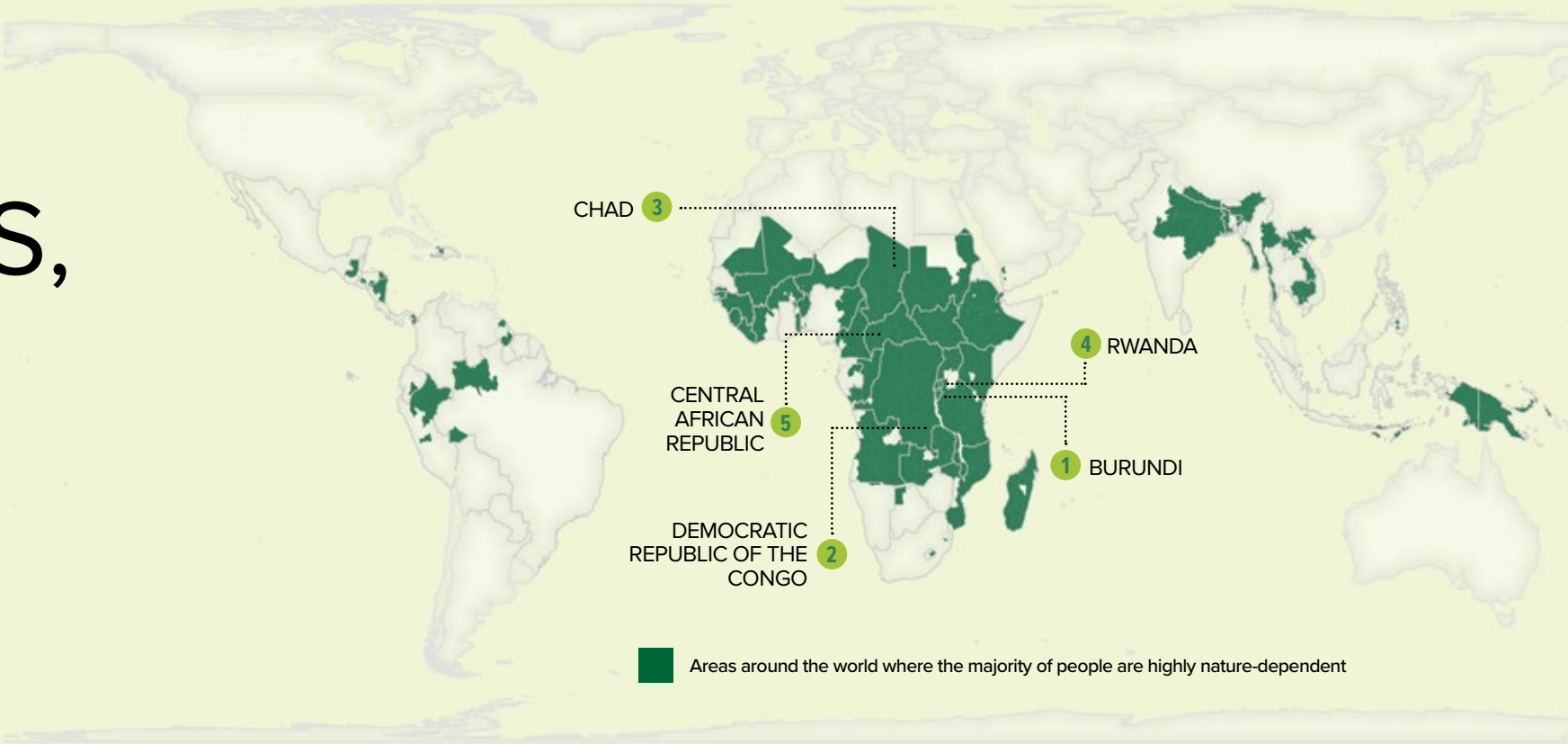
- 01: Fishers in Timor-Leste.
- 02: Harvesting bean leaves in Rwanda. Billions of people depend directly on nature for their food and incomes.

## WHERE DO PEOPLE DEPEND ON NATURE THE MOST?

More than 2.7 billion people in the tropics directly rely on nature in their daily lives, according to a study led by Conservation International. Knowing where nature-dependent people live can help governments and decision-makers implement stronger conservation efforts based on the resources these communities rely on the most. At its core, the study spotlights an issue of justice: Nature-dependent communities are typically left out of decisions involving their lands and contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet they feel the most severe impacts when nature is degraded.

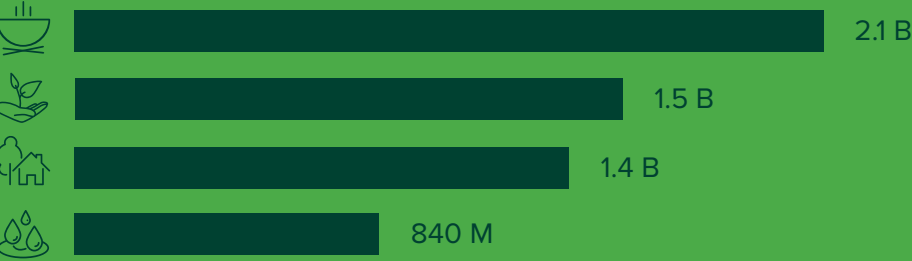
# IN 28 COUNTRIES, MOST OF THE POPULATION IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON NATURE

Here are the top five areas around the world where the majority of people are highly nature-dependent:



## MOST PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON NATURE IN THE TROPICS DO SO FOR ENERGY SOURCES

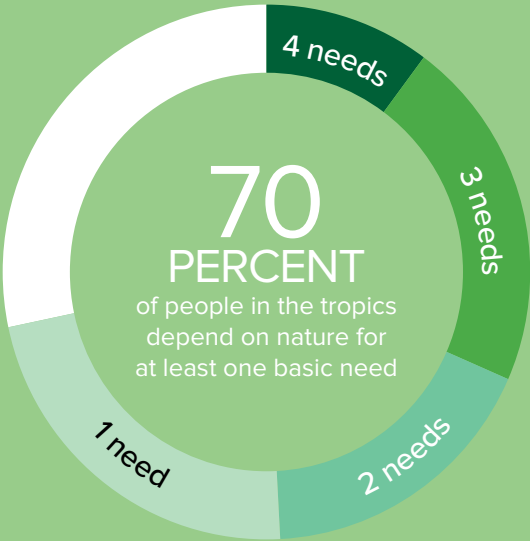
followed by occupation,  
housing materials and water.



## 2.7 BILLION

people in the tropics, or 70 percent, depend on nature for at least one basic need.

Around 1.2 billion people in the tropics, or 30 percent, are highly dependent on nature for at least three basic needs.



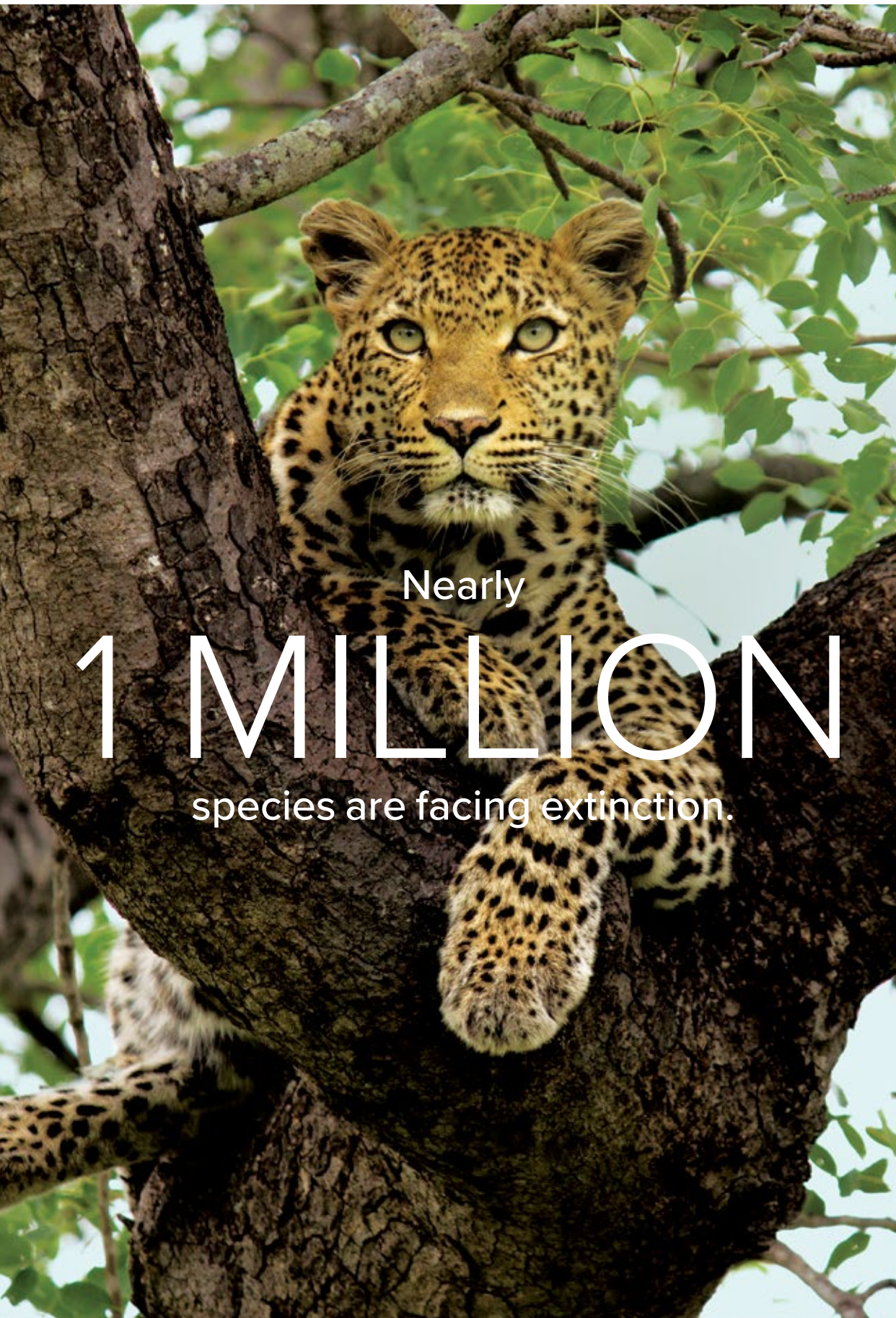


“It has been a privilege for Ponant to partner with Conservation International to protect precious ocean habitats, support ridge-to-reef conservation in New Caledonia and propel forward critical scientific research. We have the utmost confidence in the organization, in particular its emphasis on innovation, and look forward to achieving great things together.”

**Wassim Daoud**  
General Secretary  
Ponant Foundation







Nearly  
**1 MILLION**  
species are facing extinction.

## NEW TOOL TO BRING SPECIES BACK FROM THE BRINK

Nearly 1 million species face extinction. Now, a new tool developed by Conservation International and partners can spotlight the areas and species most at risk—and help to guide efforts to protect them. The Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric uses data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to identify what types of human activities are most harmful to wildlife and where. It shows—anywhere on Earth—the role that humans play in driving species to extinction and provides a measure of whether ongoing human activities are likely to drive any given species closer to extinction, or whether nature-positive practices can actually reduce its extinction risk. The metric is a vital tool for helping companies, governments and other stakeholders to implement changes to protect wildlife.

## NATURE HAS SAVED US FROM CLIMATE CATAclysm—FOR NOW

The climate crisis would be even worse if nature were not sopping up much of our carbon emissions, a Conservation International study found. Currently, Earth's complex web of terrestrial and marine ecosystems—known as the biosphere—absorbs and stores about half of our annual global carbon emissions. That won't last, though. "The biosphere's natural balance is slowly succumbing to human pressures and climate change impacts," said Conservation International chief scientist Johan Rockström. "Humanity needs to act now to restore and protect the vast ecosystems that absorb half our carbon emissions each year."

SOUTH AFRICA. © MEGAN SEMAN

01: Leopard, Kruger National Park, South Africa. A new tool aims to prevent vulnerable and endangered species from reaching extinction.



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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

“The unifying principle for all our commitments and investments is enhancing human dignity. That starts with the health of the planet we call home. Conservation International has always put people at the center of their efforts to protect and restore nature. From investing in impactful social enterprises, to creating a culture that values diversity, equity and inclusion, Conservation International helps us fulfill our purpose. We’re counting on a lasting and productive partnership.”

Ashok & Amrita Mahbubani  
Co-Founders, The EKTA Foundation  
Leadership Council member



UGANDA, © BENJAMIN DRUMMOND



## CONSERVATION FINANCE WINS — AND GROWS

Companies are increasingly taking on environmental challenges—but for many small and medium start-ups, financing is hard to come by. CI Ventures, our investment fund, is filling that gap by providing funding for businesses that contribute to healthy ecosystems. In 2021, Environmental Finance named CI Ventures “Small Asset Manager of the Year” in its annual Impact Awards, which recognize the work of impact investors and highlight best practices.

Conservation International’s African Conservancies Fund also won in the “Impact Initiative of the Year-Africa” category for its work to deliver loans to the Maasai Mara Conservancies in Kenya, which were impacted by the loss of tourism revenues during the pandemic.

In the past year, CI Ventures and its co-financing partners disbursed more than \$8 million to companies, adding several new businesses to its investment portfolio including:

- Blue Ocean Gear, a tech company that designs “smart buoys” to help fishers keep track of their equipment and reduce the impacts of lost gear on marine life.

- Imlak’esh Organics, a natural snack food company that partners with small-scale farmers in Latin America to source fruits and nuts from forests and certified-regenerative agroforestry systems.
- FlyWire Cameras, which enhances transparency and traceability in the seafood supply chain through at-sea electronic monitoring solutions.
- Meat Naturally Pty, a for-profit social enterprise in South Africa established by Conservation International that supports environmentally friendly livestock grazing among rural communities while increasing their access to markets.
- Sway, which designs seaweed-based bioplastic packaging materials as a compostable alternative to petroleum-based plastics.

By 2028, CI Ventures aims to invest \$25 million in 100 deals, leading to the sustainable management of 500,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) of land and sea, and supporting the livelihoods of 60,000 people.

By  
**2028**  
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**60,000**  
people.





01



02

01: Keeping forests like these standing in Tapajós National Forest, Brazil, can help curb climate change.

02: The Southern Tablelands of Australia face an increased threat of wildfires.

# DRIVING INVESTMENTS IN NATURE

## CANADA PENSION PLAN INVESTMENT BOARD

Natural climate solutions—like protecting old-growth forests, mangroves, peatlands and other high-carbon ecosystems — receive less than 3 percent of all global climate funding and yet they can get us a third of the way to avoiding a climate crisis. This year, Conservation International partnered with the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board to support nature-based solutions in the voluntary carbon market. CPP Investments will commit \$20 million and Conservation International will commit \$500,000 to projects in Brazil, Chile, Peru and Colombia that prevent carbon emissions caused by deforestation and support local economies. The partnership’s first carbon credit project in Peru’s Amara Kaeri Communal Reserve is estimated to last 30 years and yield annual emissions reductions equivalent to taking 75,000 passenger cars off the road each year. Projects will be certified by a longstanding United Nations-backed program known as REDD+, which offers financial incentives for communities, regions and countries to keep forests intact.

## PRICELESS PLANET COALITION

The Priceless Planet Coalition—launched by Mastercard with Conservation International and the World Resources Institute as restoration partners — is helping to restore some of Earth’s most vulnerable forests, with the goal of planting 100 million trees by 2025. We’re targeting deforested ecosystems that could have an enormous impact on climate, wildlife and communities’ livelihoods if restored. This includes carbon-rich rainforests in Brazil, which are being destroyed faster than at any other point in the last decade; areas in New South Wales, Australia, where bushfires in 2020 scorched more than 18 million hectares (44 million acres) of land and affected more than 3 billion animals; and degraded lands in the Makuli-Nzau landscape in Kenya that are essential for water and food security in the region. Guided by Conservation International, the coalition is using science-based best practices for the selection, implementation and long-term monitoring of its restoration efforts.



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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

The Priceless Planet Coalition —  
a partnership of Conservation  
International, Mastercard and the  
World Resources Institute — is  
helping to restore some of Earth's  
most vulnerable forests,  
with the goal of planting

**100 MILLION  
TREES**

By  
**2025**

SANTAREM, PARA, BRAZIL © FLAVIO FORNER



## CONSERVATION AND COVID

The second year of a global pandemic brought numerous challenges to conservation organizations. It also brought opportunities to show policymakers the links between nature and virus outbreaks—and how to adapt to them, and prevent them from happening in the first place. Here are a few highlights.

## COVID RECOVERY COMES AT NATURE'S EXPENSE, STUDY FINDS

Despite warnings that nature must be protected to prevent future disease outbreaks, more countries undermined rather than supported nature in decisions made after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Conservation International researchers found.

Our study revealed that 22 countries—including most of the world's major economies—proposed or advanced decisions to roll back or weaken environmental protections, limit the expansion of conserved areas, or reduce budgets for management of those areas during the pandemic. Researchers also identified dozens of environmental rollbacks around the world, many of them directly affecting the rights of Indigenous peoples who live on or near conserved land. As the world moves forward from the pandemic, Conservation International is working to turn the tide of legal rollbacks to conservation areas, to rebuild economies in a way that values nature and those who depend on it.

## PROTECT NATURE OR RISK FUTURE PANDEMICS

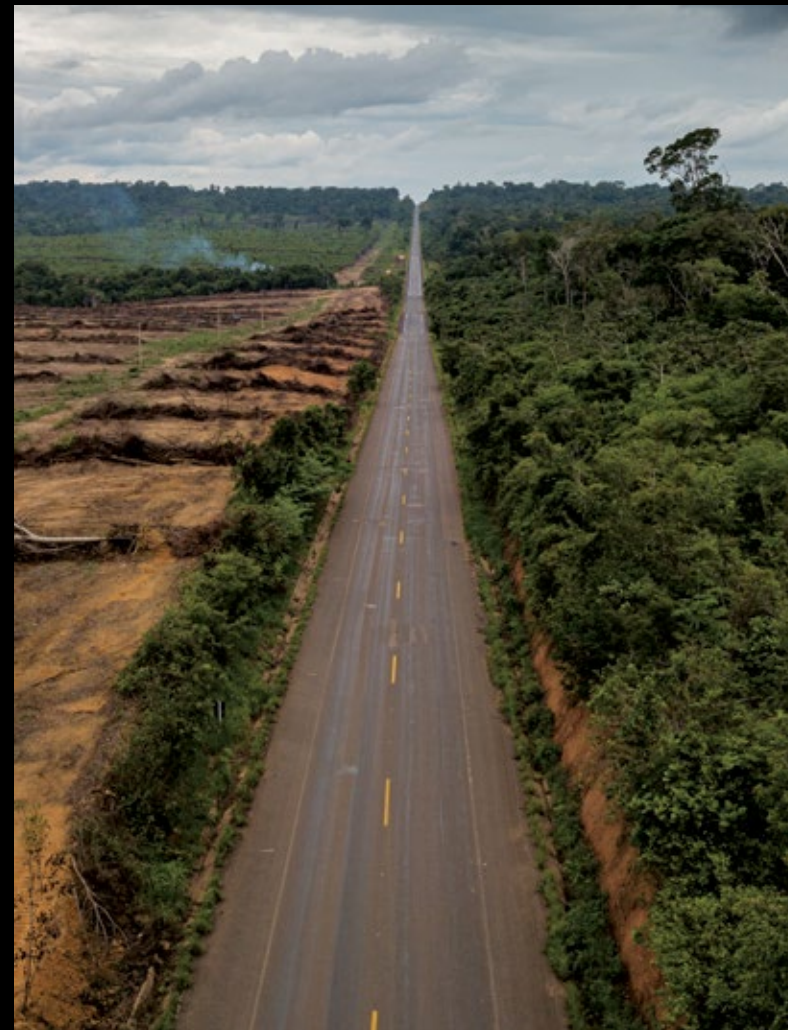
"Human health cannot be separated from the health of the planet," warns Conservation International's new pandemic prevention fellow, Dr. Neil Vora.

He's right. Though every new infectious disease is unique, research shows many share a key feature: They are driven by the destruction of nature. Since the 1940s, the number of new infectious diseases has increased—and most of them have originated from animals. These numbers are expected to rise even further in the coming decade if we continue to degrade nature. As humans continue to clear forests and the global wildlife trade persists, there are more opportunities for diseases to spread from animals to humans—a process known as "spillover."

Dr. Vora, a physician and epidemiologist, has devoted his career to chasing infectious diseases. In his first year as a fellow at Conservation International, he's working to expose the links between human health and the health of the planet—and why humanity must protect tropical forests and halt unsafe wildlife trade to prevent another global pandemic.



01



01. CHYULU HILLS, KENYA. © CHARLIE SHOEMAKER | 02. FLORESTA NACIONAL DO TAPAJÓS, PARÁ, BRAZIL. © FLAVIO FORNER

02

01: A local Maasai guide enters the cloud forests atop Chyulu Hills in southeastern Kenya. As tourism struggled during the pandemic, carbon credits offered a lifeline.

02: Experts warn that the disruption of natural ecosystems through deforestation could contribute to future viral outbreaks.





01

## WHEN COVID FLATTENED TOURISM, CARBON CREDITS KEPT THESE AFRICAN HILLS ‘GREEN’

As COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions cratered ecotourism in Africa, the people of Chyulu Hills in southeast Kenya—said to be the inspiration for Ernest Hemingway’s “Green Hills of Africa”—were able to tell a different story.

A forest carbon project in the Chyulu Hills, supported by Conservation International, offers financial incentives for communities, regions and countries to keep forests intact and prevent climate-warming carbon emissions caused by deforestation. Revenues for the project come from the sale of carbon credits, which represent a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that countries, companies or individuals can purchase to compensate for emissions made somewhere else. This steady stream of income from the sale of carbon credits—both before and during the pandemic—has been “transformational” for local communities in the area, including Indigenous Maasai pastoralists and Kamba agriculturalists, who have helped conserve and restore 404,000 hectares (1 million acres) of land.

Indigenous Maasai  
pastoralists and  
Kamba agriculturalists  
have helped  
conserve and restore

# 404,000

hectares  
(1 million acres)  
of land

## DESPITE PANDEMIC, THIS REGION THRIVED ON COFFEE, CARBON

Across Peru, the COVID-19 pandemic left millions without jobs—battering the economy, draining public coffers and buffeting high-grossing industries, from mining to tourism. But in the Alto Mayo Protected Forest, where the Amazon meets the Andes, coffee farmers were spared much of the economic devastation that gripped Peru’s cities and towns.

Conservation International has long led efforts to implement financial incentives for coffee farmers in the region. Through conservation agreements, communities in the protected forest can receive benefits such as agricultural training and access to specialty-grade markets for the coffee they grow. In exchange, the farmers commit to maintain the forests on their lands. During the pandemic, funds from the project provided a lifeline for the families who live in the forest: Farmers in Alto Mayo had a banner year in 2020, exporting 336 tons of organic and fair-trade coffee to Europe, New Zealand and the United States—one-third more than the previous year.



02



03

01: Local communities are making significant progress in restoring the verdant, rolling mountains of Kenya’s iconic Chyulu Hills region through the sale of carbon credits.

02: Local farmers in the Alto Mayo Protected Forest exported 336 tons of organic and fair-trade coffee in 2020, despite the pandemic.

03: Agricultural trainings sponsored by Conservation International are helping farmers in Peru boost their coffee yields—increasing their productivity, not their environmental impact.



“Conservation International’s ability to deliver results, especially amid the challenges and uncertainties presented by the pandemic, continues to impress me. It is my pleasure to work with Conservation International’s Asia-Pacific division to support their efforts in environmental education and landscape restoration, and expect that their dedication will make a difference for people and nature for generations to come.”

**Madhur and Mohit Khurana**  
ESG Director and Chief Investment Officer  
Southern Ridges Capital





## OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



Conservation International's origins provide a strong foundation for our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. More than 35 years ago, our now Chairman Peter Seligmann and his Co-Founder Spencer Beebe envisioned a novel approach to large-scale environmental protection that placed local communities at the heart of conservation efforts.

As a member of the Kikuyu tribe of Central Kenya, I know the importance of an origin story. For my people, it's a connection to the past that gives shape to our traditions and beliefs — that's why having a deep connection to Conservation International's beginnings helps us build an even stronger culture of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our roots have informed all that we've done for more than three decades, including being one of the first environmental organizations to develop a policy for partnering with Indigenous peoples — an initiative that evolved into our rights-based approach to conservation; supporting women to participate fully in community discussions and management decisions; and rolling out new systems to better address project impacts on people and the environment.

We elevated the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion into our top organizational priorities last year, and we now measure our progress toward greater workforce diversity, workplace inclusion, inclusive conservation and leadership accountability.

We are also working to promote inclusion and equity among our vast network of peer groups and partners across the conservation world; for example, we partnered with MIT and local leaders to establish the Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change to illuminate the unique climate and environmental challenges Afro-descendant communities face in the Americas and to promote their expertise in climate change decision-making.

Ensuring that our diverse, equitable and inclusive approach is comprehensive and durable will, of course, take time, humility and a lot of hard work. By building on our roots, I'm confident that we will continue to bring these values to life, and I am proud to lead this work.

**Wanjiru Gathira**

senior director, global equity, diversity and inclusion



COLOMBIA, © MEMENTO PHOTO STUDIOS

Indigenous women from Amazonia gathered for a historic summit this year, uplifting their unique and essential role in conserving the world's most iconic forest.



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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

# 05 WHAT'S NEXT

00:00:87

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CHOBENATIONAL PARK, BOTSWANA, © PAUL SOUDERS/GETTY IMAGES



Here are just a few of the projects we’ll be working on in the coming year to protect nature for the benefit of us all.



01



02

- 01: A fisherman watches the sun rise above the trees in the Pampas region of Bolivia.
- 02: Conservation International is helping farmers within Peru’s Alto Mayo Protected Forest sustainably and responsibly plant lucrative crops, including cacao.

## BEZOS EARTH FUND GRANT

The Amazon is the ecological jewel of the world—and it’s hurtling toward disaster. As vast tracts of Amazonia are lost to deforestation and wildfire, the region is approaching a tipping point: Creeping desertification risks the forest’s ability to regulate rainfall, maintain biodiversity, sequester carbon and support millions of Indigenous peoples.

Last year, Conservation International was awarded \$20 million from the Bezos Earth Fund to expand its work in Amazonia alongside Indigenous peoples, local communities and partner organizations. The gift to Conservation International is part of a \$151 million, multi-organization effort to support conservation in the tropical Andes.

By 2024, across Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, Conservation International will support the creation of more than 10,000 square kilometers (3,800 square miles) of newly conserved areas, improve management of more than 81,000 square kilometers (31,000 square miles) and bolster the livelihoods of more than 60,000 people. We will work in direct partnership with Indigenous peoples and local communities, supporting their leadership and strengthening their land rights, while designing sustainable financing mechanisms that deliver long-lasting impacts for the region.



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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

By

2024

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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Across Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador  
and Peru, Conservation International  
will support the creation of  
more than

10,000

square kilometers (3,800 square miles)  
of newly conserved areas, improve  
management of more than

81,000

square kilometers (31,000 square miles)  
and bolster the livelihoods of more  
than 60,000 people.



With funding from France  
and the European Union,  
Conservation International  
will restore and conserve

10,000

square kilometers

(3,800 square miles) of rangelands in  
southern Africa, directly benefiting

30,000

people in South Africa, Botswana,  
Zambia and Zimbabwe.



01

01: When livestock are kept on the move, they can help restore degraded landscapes by mimicking the mass migrations of native wildlife, such as wildebeests.

## PROTECTING RANGELANDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The vast, dry rangelands of southern Africa are rich in biodiversity, critical for livelihoods and food security and vulnerable to the effects of overgrazing and climate change.

With funding from France and the European Union, Conservation International will restore and conserve 10,000 square kilometers (3,800 square miles) of these habitats, directly benefiting 30,000 people in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The project is based on the Herding for Health model, an incentive-based conservation approach initiated by Conservation International and Peace Parks Foundation, an African nonprofit, to improve the livelihoods of rural communities living in or around protected areas. At the core of the model is Conservation International’s “conservation agreements” mechanism, which provides economic and other incentives or ben-

efits to communities to improve management of their natural resources.

In this project, rural communities will voluntarily commit to implement planned grazing of their livestock to minimize overgrazing, remove invasive vegetation that hamper grass growth and water availability, adopt human-wildlife conflict mitigation practices and adopt sustainable fisheries practices among other measures identified in consultations with local actors. In turn, they will receive support to improve the quality of their livestock, reduce animal losses from wildlife predators, access facilitated livestock markets and purchase sustainable fishing gear. Moreover, the project will support communities to initiate investable community-based, “nature-friendly” rural enterprises that can deliver environmental and social outcomes. This will include strengthening their partnerships with private sector and impact investors.



# SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP

Growing evidence points to better governance and conservation outcomes when fisheries and forests are managed collaboratively by women and men. Yet in many places, women are frequently denied access to resources, have limited power in decision-making, and their knowledge and ideas are often discounted. Conservation International launched multiple fellowships that will support Indigenous women to take leadership roles in conservation, including:

## THE SUE TAEI OCEAN FELLOWSHIP FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN OF THE PACIFIC

The Sue Taii Ocean Fellowship for Indigenous Women of the Pacific aims to elevate the role of Indigenous women from across the region in ocean conservation. The Fellowship—in honor of the late Sue Taii, formerly executive director of Conservation International’s Pacific Islands program—announced its first two fellows in 2021. Our inaugural fellows, Tepoerau Mai and Te Aomihia Walker, have used their fellowships as launchpads to secure scholarships to further their education and research.

Based in New Caledonia, Tepoerau Mai, of Tahitian and Marquesan descent, is conducting research on the risk of toxic and harmful micro-algae to human health. She recently returned from a month in France, where she worked with specialists in toxic micro-algae at Ifremer laboratories, identifying species present in New Caledonia and analyzing the toxins produced by these organisms, and received

the Young Talents 2021 L’Oréal-UNESCO award For Women in Science. She has returned to New Caledonia and is continuing her research. Hailing from Aotearoa (New Zealand), Te Aomihia Walker (Ngāti Porou) is using her fellowship to attend the UNESCO-GRÓ Fisheries Training Program in Iceland to develop her understanding of fisheries management, industry and resource economics. She will soon return to New Zealand, where she will work to protect and advance the interests of Māori in the marine environment.

## THE “OUR FUTURE FORESTS: AMAZONIA VERDE” PROJECT

The “Our Future Forests: Amazonia Verde” project is supporting 24 Indigenous women across seven countries in Amazonia to boost their leadership in conserving their territories, adapting to climate change and strengthening their communities through ancestral knowledge. This first cohort promotes resolving challenges related to Indigenous economies, gender balance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and more, based on their own solutions. The cohort includes Bernice Sarataya of Bolivia’s Chiquitana tribe, who plans to create natural pharmacies with a gender-conscious and renewable approach, and Imaculata Casimero of the Wapichan tribe in Guyana, who is advocating for the protection of the main headwaters of the South Rupununi River. “Our Future Forests: Amazonia Verde” is scaling these initiatives internationally through such forums as the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the UN climate talks.



**Agripina Tiburnay**  
Peru



**Bernice Serataya**  
Bolivia



**Samela Sateré-Maué**  
Brazil



**Josiane Ticuna**  
Brazil



**Edina Carlos B.**  
Brazil



**Cecilia Martinez**  
Peru



**Marfa C. Biguidima**  
Colombia



**Elizabeth Peredo**  
Bolivia



**Eveylyn Garcia**  
Bolivia



**Judith Nunta**  
Peru



**Katty Guatatoca**  
Ecuador



**Sharmaine Artist**  
Suriname



**Gladis Grefa**  
Ecuador



**Marijane Makadepuung**  
Suriname



**Immaculata Casimero**  
Guyana



**Isolina Java**  
Colombia



**Caroline Jacobs**  
Guyana



**Ester Marslowe**  
Guyana



**Loretta Fiedtkou**  
Guyana



**Camenza Yucuna Rivas**  
Colombia



**Gabriela Loaiza**  
Peru



**Althea Harding**  
Guyana



**Maria F. Apurina**  
Brazil



**Nelyda Entsakua**  
Peru



00:00:96

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

00:00:97

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

“To celebrate my bar mitzvah,  
I asked family and friends to donate  
to Conservation International  
because I care about animals and  
our forests & oceans. Having  
a clean, healthy planet is really  
important to me.”

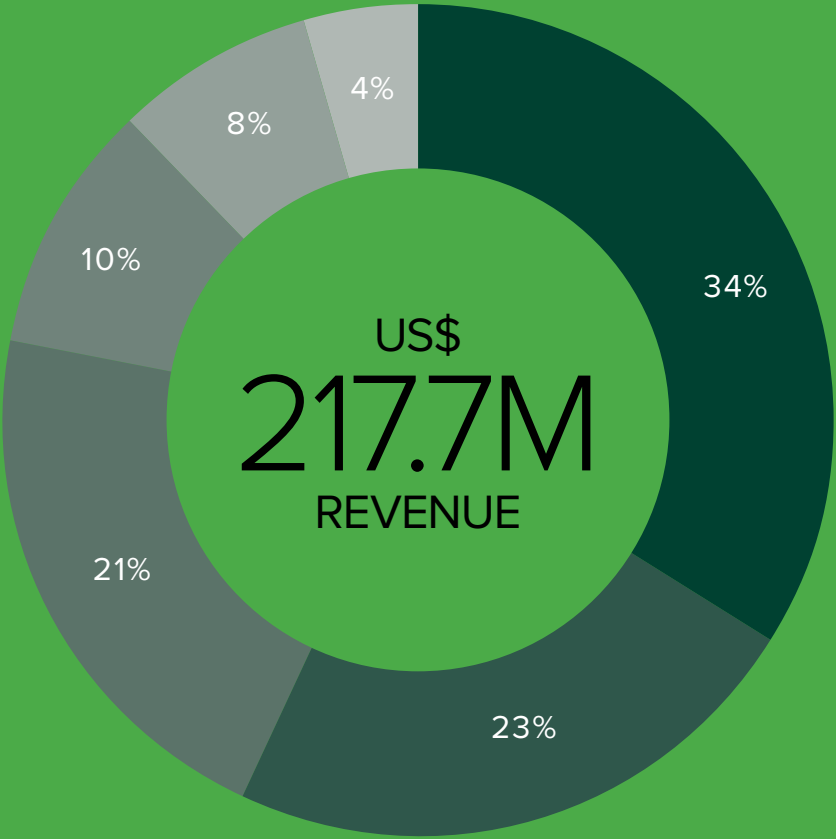
Felix Heller

COSTA RICA, © EVA TROENG-MONGE



# REVENUE & EXPENSES

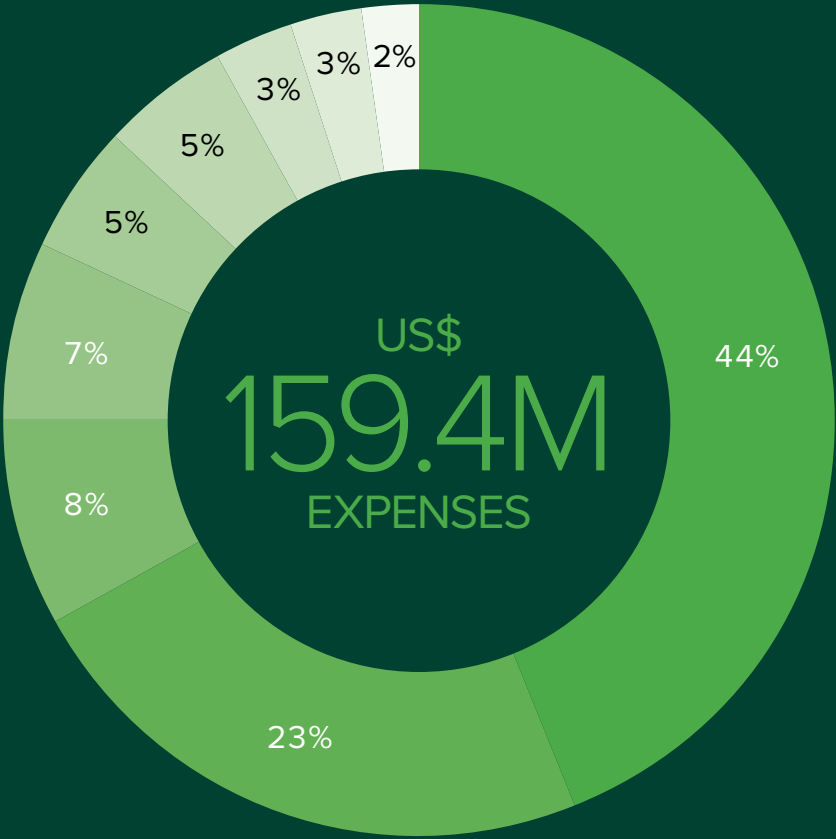
Conservation International supporters and partners know that we need nature. Their tremendous generosity is helping Conservation International protect nature for the future of us all.



## REVENUE

In the fiscal year 2021, Conservation International raised a total of US\$ 217.7 million in revenue from deeply committed supporters from around the globe.

- 34% FOUNDATIONS
- 23% INVESTMENTS
- 21% PUBLIC FUNDING, NGOS AND MULTILATERALS
- 10% INDIVIDUALS
- 8% OTHER INCOME
- 4% CORPORATIONS



## EXPENSES

Conservation International closed fiscal year 2021 with expenses totaling US\$ 159.4 million.

- 44% FIELD PROGRAMS
- 23% GRANTMAKING DIVISIONS
- 8% FUNDRAISING
- 7% MANAGEMENT + OPERATIONS
- 5% OTHER PROGRAMS
- 5% MOORE CENTER FOR SCIENCE
- 3% COMMUNICATIONS
- 3% CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE LANDS AND WATERS
- 2% CENTER FOR NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



# FY21 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, our staff and partners made significant progress toward our conservation goals in fiscal year 2021, one of Conservation International's strongest on record. Our audited financial statements reflect revenues of \$217.7 million, one of the highest levels reported in our history, against \$159.4 million in expenditures.

We extend our sincerest thanks to our donors for believing in us and in our work — and continuing to support us during these challenging times.



## REVENUE

Thanks to our donors' generosity, in fiscal year 2021 we increased our revenues to close at \$217.7 million—a 34 percent increase over last year's revenues. We received significant, multi-year grants to support our most urgent priorities: forest protection and regeneration, engagement with Indigenous groups, the development of innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable businesses, and more.

## EXPENSES

Conservation International closed fiscal year 2021 with expenditures totaling \$159.4 million—the second highest level in our history, after a pre-pandemic peak of \$160.2 million in fiscal year 2018. Our teams have successfully navigated the constraints imposed by COVID to deliver quality conservation outcomes while ensuring the health and safety of our staff, partners and beneficiaries.

Our field programs and Center for Oceans represented our largest programmatic investments, accounting for \$70.2 million, or 44 percent of our total expenses. Our Grantmaking Divisions accounted for \$36.8 million in expenditures, or 23 percent of total expenses.

Conservation International's Global Programs team—including the Moore Center for Science, the Center for Sustainable Lands and Waters, the Center for Natural Climate Solutions, the Center for Communities and Conservation, and the Global Policy and Government Affairs division—delivered outsized impacts by creating enabling conditions, best practices and tools that amplified the impact of other divisions.

As Conversation International grows, we will continue to carefully steward each dollar our donors entrust to us. We are mindful of the need to invest in systems and people to effectively manage a portfolio that is growing both in size and complexity. Supporting service costs rose modestly by 1.9 percent, from \$22.9 million in fiscal year 2020 to \$23.3 million in fiscal year 2021, compared to a 4.1 percent increase in programmatic spending. As a result, our overhead rate fell slightly from 14.9 percent in fiscal year 2020 to 14.6 percent in fiscal year 2021.

## NET ASSETS

Thanks to several large, multi-year contributions, total Net Assets in fiscal year 2021 increased by \$58.5 million, from \$322.1 million to \$380.6 million—with most of this increase derived from sources that support specific programs or purposes.

We are profoundly grateful to our donors for trusting Conservation International to pursue solutions to some of the most critical challenges of our time.



## FY21 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2021			2020
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	WITH DONOR RESTRICTION	TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
<b>Grants + Contributions:</b>				
Foundations	\$4,340	\$69,390	\$73,730	\$56,573
Public Funding	39	45,733	45,772	36,672
Individuals	10,742	10,812	21,554	12,425
Corporations	2,274	7,272	9,546	36,309
Other	7	1,176	1,183	1,316
Cancellations and de-obligations	—	(230)	(230)	(4,250)
<b>Contract revenue</b>	11,424	—	11,424	9,991
<b>Other revenue</b>	560	3,712	4,272	4,211
<b>Investment Income, net</b>	4,553	45,848	50,401	9,352
<b>Net Assets Released     from Donor Restrictions</b>	135,380	(135,380)	—	—
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>169,319</b>	<b>48,333</b>	<b>217,652</b>	<b>162,599</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Program Services:</b>				
Field Programs	70,188	—	70,188	70,270
Grantmaking Divisions	36,792	—	36,792	32,197
Moore Center for Science	7,886	—	7,886	8,016
Communications	5,090	—	5,090	4,984
Center for Sustainable Lands and Waters	4,112	—	4,112	4,192
Center for Natural Climate Solutions	3,674	—	3,674	2,807
Other Programs	8,384	—	8,384	8,250
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>136,126</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>136,126</b>	<b>130,716</b>
<b>Supporting Services:</b>				
Management + Operations	10,633	—	10,633	10,816
Fundraising	12,626	—	12,626	12,005
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>23,259</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>23,259</b>	<b>22,821</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>159,385</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>159,385</b>	<b>153,537</b>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NONOPERATING ACTIVITY</b>	<b>9,934</b>	<b>48,333</b>	<b>58,267</b>	<b>9,062</b>
<b>NONOPERATING ACTIVITY:</b>				
(Gain) Loss on translation of affiliate and field office net assets	—	198	198	(2,203)
Loss on translation of grants and pledges receivable	—	—	—	(2)
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>9,934</b>	<b>48,531</b>	<b>58,465</b>	<b>6,857</b>
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>				
Beginning	18,139	303,987	322,126	315,269
Ending	<b>\$28,073</b>	<b>\$352,518</b>	<b>\$380,591</b>	<b>\$322,126</b>



## IN MEMORIAM



### Dr. Edward O. Wilson

Near the very end of 2021, we said goodbye to Dr. Edward O. Wilson, one of the great naturalists of the 20th century. Wilson, a former board member at Conservation International, was a profound thinker and foremost entomologist, whose theories on biodiversity and evolution led some to dub him “a modern-day Charles Darwin.”

Wilson shared his ideas through a deep and engrossing body of written work that helped to popularize biodiversity, untangle the complex web of nature and convey the protection of the natural world as a moral imperative. His books made him one of the most visible faces in science, inspiring countless future conservationists and earning him two Pulitzer Prizes.

“Every conservationist and ecologist owes their career path in some way to Ed,” reflected Conservation International CEO M. Sanjayan. “His writing reminded us that the world is really magnificent and connected and dripping with life.”

At Conservation International, his influence was profound. “He challenged the organization to focus intensively on protecting the most important biodiversity hotspots,” said Peter Seligmann, founder of Conservation International and Chairman of the Board. That pioneering approach became the organization’s guiding blueprint for more than 20 years, helping us make targeted investment in nature’s most important, irreplaceable ecosystems.

Until the very end, Wilson was still making major contributions to conservation. At the age of 87, he famously called for devoting 50 percent of the Earth’s surface to nature to stave off mass extinction. This led, in part, to “30 x 30”—an effort supported by Conservation International that seeks to preserve 30 percent of the planet’s lands and waters by the year 2030.

We honor and remember Wilson for bonding science to action and telling stories that have inspired and connected us to a larger, guiding truth: We must protect nature for the sake of all life on Earth.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Dr. Thomas Lovejoy

On Christmas morning 2021, the conservation movement lost one of its giants, Dr. Thomas Lovejoy. Lovejoy was a world-renowned conservation biologist, who spent more than 50 years trying to protect the Amazon rainforest. Known by many as the “godfather of biodiversity,” he coined the term “biological diversity” and was an early proponent that habitat destruction and global warming are profoundly altering our planet’s ecosystems and their rich abundance of life.

Lovejoy was a member of Conservation International’s Leadership Council and was integral to the organization’s earliest successes. In 1984, Lovejoy proposed the “debt-for-nature swap,” in which a portion of a developing country’s foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for commitments to environmental protection and policy measures. Since the first debt-for-nature swap between Conservation International and Bolivia in 1987, the idea has become a mainstay of conservation, with billions of dollars in funding being made available for environmental protection.

His prolific writing and genial nature won him countless accolades and inspired generations of passionate conservation advocates. His 2019 book co-edited with Conservation International scientist Lee Hannah, “Biodiversity and Climate Change: Transforming the Biosphere”—a sequel to a seminal work released in 2005 by the same authors—is now being used as a teaching text in universities, providing an invaluable foundation for the next generation of scientists and decision-makers. The next generation that will carry on his legacy will remember Lovejoy not only for his immense scientific contributions but for his good-natured generosity.

“He was a giant in conservation, a champion for the Amazon, and above all a kind and generous scientist. We will miss him greatly,” said Conservation International CEO M. Sanjayan.



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Conservation International’s network of public and private partners amplifies our work across the globe.

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Republic of the Fiji Islands  
FiTI The Fisheries Transparency Initiative  
Fondo Colombia en Paz  
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Government of the French Republic  
Giving.sg  
Global Development Group  
Global Environment Facility  
Green Climate Fund  
The GreenCape Sector Development Agency  
Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung  
Harrow International School Hong Kong  
State of Hawaii  
IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative  
Inter-American Development Bank  
International Climate Initiative (IKI)  
International Fund for Agricultural Development  
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and Development  
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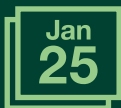
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MAKE A ONE-TIME  
CONTRIBUTION



GIVE THROUGH  
YOUR WORKPLACE



BECOME A MONTHLY  
SUPPORTER



FUNDRAISE FOR  
CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
THROUGH YOUR OWN  
EVENT OR ACTIVITY



HONOR FRIENDS, FAMILY  
OR LOVED ONES WITH  
A GIFT IN THEIR NAME



GIVE THROUGH  
A DONOR-ADVISED  
FUND



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CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
IN YOUR WILL OR  
LIVING TRUST



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