

marine science: turning science into policy

The prosperous ocean envisioned by Conservation International (CI) will depend on the scientific guidance provided by the Science + Knowledge Divisions' Marine Science Program, which is spearheading a global Science-to-Action partnership including more than 75 organizations and 200 scientists worldwide.

The Marine Science Program examines the relationship between marine biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being to improve conservation at local to global levels. The program examines conservation strategies such as marine managed areas, which can restore and increase resiliency of ocean ecosystems in the face of global change while providing benefits to people through diversified livelihoods, improved economic opportunities and greater food security.

Marine Science vision

- Use an interdisciplinary approach drawing on the natural and social sciences to measure the biodiversity and human well-being effects of conservation efforts
- Conduct an array of supporting science studies, ranging from economic valuations to habitat connectivity studies, to better inform decision making
- Ensure scientific insights lead to conservation action by focusing on identified information needs, providing relevant, practical materials (e.g. policy briefs, posters, videos) and facilitating interactive discussions between scientists and decision makers
- Build in-country capacity by strengthening regional knowledge, skills and tools

Marine Science conservation impact

Working closely with CI field staff, marine science insights have influenced the establishment of new or improved conservation strategies worldwide, including in Fiji, Kiribati, Ecuador, Belize, Panama, and Brazil.



Marine Science mission:

“Through scientific research, the Marine Science Program finds solutions to protect the health of the ocean. With a network of partners around the world, we take a Science-to-Action approach to benefit people and nature.”



Coral reef, Pacific Ocean

Priority areas of expansion

- **Marine spatial planning** – a geospatial approach for determining the effects of proposed development and management scenarios on ecosystem services, including recreational opportunities, food security and shoreline protection, to enable decision makers to make informed choices.
- **Fisheries assessments** – mechanisms to assess fish stocks and determine sustainable harvest levels and viable management strategies, such as catch shares, gear restrictions and seasonal closures.
- **Climate change studies** – vulnerability assessments to inform coastal stakeholders of the existing and future effects of climate change on ecosystems and subsequently on ecosystem services and to strategize for adaptation.
- **Ocean Health Index** – an awareness campaign built on global scientific analysis that demonstrates the state of the ocean health and the benefits to people.
- **Science to Action** – a network of site-based science communicators who bring scientific results to government, business and community stakeholders.



Marine Science research has demonstrated that marine managed areas result in higher incomes, more livelihood options and greater food security, as well as improved fish biomass, species richness and coral recruitment.

OUR VISION

We imagine a healthy, prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature, our global biodiversity, for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth.

OUR MISSION

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.



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