



Biodiversity Hotspots are regions that have high levels of both overall biodiversity and species found nowhere else (endemism), and face severe threat.

High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas are relatively intact regions of significant biodiversity and endemism.

Globally important marine areas, or seascapes, contain high levels of biodiversity considered particularly unique and important to overall ocean health.



[ABOVE] Forest cover validation over flights in Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Conservation Corridor, Philippines Hotspot. Photo by Oliver Corzo.

[ABOVE] Training community members in GPS and mapping techniques to conduct surveys in the Cardamon Mountains, Indo-Burma Hotspot. Photo ©David Emmett/CI.

Outcomes Monitoring

It is not enough to identify biodiversity targets and implement conservation activities. We must monitor progress toward safeguarding our conservation targets. Outcomes monitoring provides information on CI's work as well as humanity's changing impacts on global biodiversity. By systematically tracking trends in biodiversity, outcomes monitoring strengthens our ability to communicate conservation successes and failures to government agencies, investment bodies, industry and society as a whole, and thereby helps shape future decisions on conservation policy and investment.

We have identified a set of practical and globally applicable indicators, or measurement tools, to determine progress toward meeting conservation objectives and reporting the results in a consistent and understandable format. Four priority indicators are recognized as the most robust measures for monitoring the status of global biodiversity, as well as threats and interventions that affect it:

- Change in threatened status of species using the IUCN Red List Index ("Extinctions Avoided")
- Change in protection status of Key Biodiversity Areas ("Areas Protected")
- Change in habitat extent in Key Biodiversity Areas ("Areas Protected")
- Change in fragmentation in Biodiversity Conservation Corridors ("Corridors Consolidated")

Outcomes monitoring collects data that can support local, regional and global conservation initiatives. For example, outcomes monitoring can assess the effectiveness of declarations made by world leaders to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, as called for by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Through systematic measurement of trends, we can deliver 'headline' messages for raising awareness and influencing high-level decision-making, as well as relevant biological information to help decide how scarce biodiversity conservation resources should be used.

Collaboration

Through the outcomes process, we seek to prevent biodiversity loss by identifying and safeguarding the highest priority conservation targets, and by monitoring progress toward our conservation goals. We are only able to achieve these results through building and sustaining partnerships with governments and local and international organizations around the world. In several regions, the process is being led by partners, with CI providing limited technical support.

Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
Arlington, VA USA 22202

+1 (703) 341-2400
www.conservation.org

Priorities Action and Monitoring:

The CI Approach to Biodiversity Conservation



**CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL**





[ABOVE] Globally threatened species, Golden-crowned sifaka (*Propithecus tattersalli*), Critically Endangered species, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot. Photo by Haroldo Castro.



[ABOVE] Area-demanding species, Asiatic Wild dogs (*Cuon alpinus*), Endangered, India, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka Hotspot. Photo by Frank Hawkins.

The mission of Conservation International (CI) is to conserve the Earth's living natural heritage—our global biodiversity—and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature. Biodiversity is the sum of life on Earth, comprising all life forms and their intricate relationships that create and sustain the planet's natural systems.

To accomplish our mission, CI uses scientific analysis of the Earth's ecosystems to decide the highest priority areas for conservation. Our focus is on three main areas: Biodiversity Hotspots, High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas, and globally important marine areas. Biodiversity Hotspots are regions that have high levels of both overall biodiversity and species found nowhere else (endemism), and face severe threat. High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas are relatively intact regions of significant biodiversity and endemism, and globally important marine areas, or seascapes, contain high levels of biodiversity considered particularly unique and important to overall ocean health.

Conservation Outcomes

As these priority areas are often vast, encompassing one or even several countries, CI uses “conservation outcomes” as the basis for focusing our work and resources within hotspots, wilderness areas and priority marine areas. Outcomes are the goals we seek by setting conservation targets, which can be species of flora and fauna, specific geographic sites, and

broader-scale areas of land and ocean that are essential for preventing biodiversity loss and promoting the conservation of vital ecosystem services. Identifying these targets ensures that our conservation work focuses on species at the greatest risk of extinction, and on the sites and corridors that are most important for protection of those species. The targets also provide a baseline for measuring the success of our conservation investments.

Outcomes Definition

“Outcomes definition” is the term for the process by which CI identifies its biodiversity conservation targets at three levels: species, sites, and sea/landscapes.

Targets at the species level are those assessed on the IUCN Red List as threatened with extinction. These are categorized according to increasing danger of extinction as Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered.

Targets at the site level are called “Key Biodiversity Areas” (KBAs). KBAs are identified by the confirmed presence of species that may become extinct over the short to medium term unless their habitat is conserved. Categories of such species include those that are globally threatened species; those with restricted ranges; and those that congregate in large numbers. Once identified, KBAs can be safeguarded through the establishment of protected areas or other site conservation tactics.

Conservation targets can be species of flora and fauna, specific geographic sites, and broader-scale areas of land and ocean that are essential for preventing biodiversity loss.

Targets at the broader sea or landscape level comprise globally threatened species that cannot be conserved at the site scale alone because they are area-demanding (i.e. they regularly move between sites or naturally occur at low densities), and broad-scale ecological processes, such as freshwater flow regimes, which are critical for the persistence of globally threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas.

Prioritization among sites

Limited resources for global biodiversity conservation make it necessary to prioritize among conservation sites. CI bases its prioritization on species and site vulnerability and species irreplaceability. The highest priorities are sites containing the entire global population of a highly threatened species; sites that, if lost, would result in the extinction of one or more species. These sites are the focus of the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), a joint initiative of more than 60 biodiversity conservation organizations that aims to prevent extinctions by identifying and safeguarding key sites where species are in imminent danger of disappearing.

Strategic Planning and Implementation

Once conservation targets have been identified, CI uses a range of analyses and planning tools to select and implement conservation actions that will safeguard these

CI's conservation activities are implemented by regional staff, and in collaboration with partner organizations, local communities, and government agencies.

targets—species, sites and broad-scale corridors of global conservation significance. These conservation actions are designed within the local context and to promote the well-being and priorities of local people.

CI's conservation activities are implemented by regional staff, and in collaboration with partner organizations, local communities, and government agencies. Safeguarding a KBA can involve establishing new protected areas; expanding or strengthening management in existing protected areas; developing community-based conservation and sustainable resource management projects; promoting ecotourism, or a number of other initiatives. At the broader sea/landscape level, conservation actions can include creating integrated systems of protected areas, maintaining linkages and developing incentives to promote land or resource uses that are compatible with the needs of area-demanding species and broad-scale ecological processes.

Ecosystem services, climate change and freshwater conservation strategies have just been finalized within CI. These represent very important areas of work to ensure the sustainability of our conservation outcomes. Integration of these themes into our program strategies is underway, including assessments and response strategies for dealing with the threats from climate change and the importance of vital ecosystem services.



[ABOVE] Site target, Mont Panié Key Biodiversity Area, New Caledonia Hotspot. Photo by Naamal De Silva.



[ABOVE] Strategic Planning Workshop, Integrating Biodiversity Conservation Priorities using a spatial approach into rehabilitation and reconstruction process of North Sumatra, Banda Aceh, Sundaland Hotspot. Photo by William Crosse.