Conservation International: Background for Press at COP21

Conservation International (CI) is leading ambitious work to deliver the most effective but under-recognized solutions to halt climate change and help people around the world adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already being felt. We believe that nature can provide 30% or more of the carbon storage and sequestration we need to limit warming to safe levels and can also help cities and communities build resilience to the harmful impacts of climate change.

CI works with governments, businesses and communities in Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific islands to use solutions from our natural landscapes to help communities combat climate change and adapt to challenges like rising sea levels, severe storms and more frequent flooding. We implement new ways of farming that support a healthy environment, minimize climate impacts and create a better quality of life for farmers. And, in addition to on-the-ground expertise and scientific know-how, CI offers practical recommendations that policymakers need to make smart decisions.

Here are just a few examples of how CI is harnessing nature’s immediate power to curb climate change:

Working with communities to keep forests standing for people and climate

CI is working with Peruvian farmers in the Alto Mayo Protected Forest, which provides clean air, a stable climate, and fresh water to almost a quarter million people. To address the main driver of deforestation there — the expansion of sun-grown coffee farms in need of fertile soil — we worked with hundreds of local farmers to establish long-term, sustainable practices. Farmers that agreed to stop cutting down trees received agricultural training and supplies as well as energy-efficient stoves, medical equipment, educational materials and jobs patrolling the forest. Deforestation has declined by 75%, more than any other conservation program in the country, and the program has led to increased crop yields and higher incomes for farmers. www.conservation.org/altomayo

Using nature to buffer the impacts of climate change in the Philippines

Around the world, we help communities harness their natural ecosystems to help fight climate change and its impacts, a strategy known as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). CI has supported local governments, municipalities and communities in the Philippines to transform abandoned fishponds into mangroves forests that will reduce the flooding and wave impacts of typhoons and other storms on these communities. These mangroves also provide valuable tourism income to the communities, are an essential habitat for fisheries in the region and sustain the extraordinary biological diversity for which the region is famous. As a result, the Philippines government has now integrated EbA into its national strategy on climate change. www.conservation.org/philippines
Providing insights for African farmers

In Africa, we’re working with farmers to help them better predict weather patterns and improve crop yields. Through a monitoring system called Vital Signs, we’re collecting data on precipitation, temperature, soil health and nutrition. The Tanzanian government is using the system to help the country grow crops in a way that can adapt to the effects of a changing climate, including erratic temperatures and rainfall.

Reducing emissions through sustainable landscapes

Along with USAID and the Walton Family Foundation, Conservation International is one of the founding members of the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership. We use the power of partnerships to provide a model for tackling global challenges—such as climate change, deforestation, competition for agricultural lands and declining access to clean water. Each landscape will be anchored by a project to secure the vast amounts of carbon stored in forests (REDD+) and will include low-emission business opportunities for local people and biodiversity conservation efforts. In North Sumatra, we are working with the Ministry of Forestry, local government, private sector and local communities to implement replicable business models that foster green development, particularly through economic alternatives to deforestation.

In Ecuador, it pays to protect the forest

Socio Bosque—an initiative by the Ecuadorian government based on practices developed by CI — gives Dureno community members a stronger incentive to protect the forest that surrounds them. Through the program, community members commit to keep the trees standing and prohibit hunting for commercial purposes. In return for taking care of the forest, they receive much-needed support in the form of housing, education, healthcare and more. Their actions not only benefit the habitats of wild cats, tapirs, capybaras, giant otters, monkeys and other species, but it help fight climate change by reducing deforestation.

Combatting climate change through smart supply chains

For 15 years, CI and Starbucks have been working together to create a new way to produce coffee that is sustainable, transparent and good for people. Coffee farmers around the world who use the sustainability standards that we’ve developed are living better, earning more for their families and protecting forests that all of us depend on for fresh water and clean air. Now, Starbucks has verified 99% of their coffee as ethically sourced, making them the largest coffee retailer to reach this milestone.
Measuring and Monitoring Climate Change to Develop Science–based Solutions

We know that our climate is rapidly changing and that many of these changes, like warmer temperatures and rising seas, are already apparent and having significant impacts on communities worldwide. Scientists at Conservation International have been studying how climate change will affect our lives and identifying ways in which we can use nature to fight back.

CI scientists are conducting innovative research to identify nature-based solutions for tackling climate change. This includes two major lines of work: 1) understanding how the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of terrestrial and marine systems can help mitigate climate change (through carbon sequestration and reduced GHG emissions), and 2) identifying ecosystem-based adaptation options that use biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to climate change. Our scientific research guides CI’s work in the field as well as the actions of our partners—communities, governments and businesses—and helps ensure that nature will continue to benefit people into the future.

Marine Ecosystems and Blue carbon

CI, along with IUCN and IOC-UNESCO, leads the Blue Carbon Initiative, a global program focused on mitigating climate change through the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems. Coastal marine ecosystems (including mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses) are remarkably efficient at sequestering and storing carbon from the atmosphere, at rates up to 50 times those of tropical forests. The conservation and restoration of these ecosystems is therefore critical for efforts to mitigate climate change. However, they are under threat: Globally, up to 2 percent are destroyed or degraded every year, resulting not only in the loss of vital carbon sequestration, but also habitat that protects coastal communities and provides valuable habitat for fisheries thus securing food for people.

Protecting Forests with REDD+

More carbon is stored in the world’s forest than is in the atmosphere. When forests are destroyed the carbon they contain is released, directly contributing to climate change. Keeping forests standing can cut global emissions by about 30%. CI develops and pilots the methods needed to implement REDD+ on the ground and then uses these experiences to support governments to develop national REDD+ programs. For example, in Peru’s Alto Mayo Protected Forest, CI works with over 700 families to introduce more sustainable farming practices that reduce their impact on the forest. Between 2009-2012, the project generated almost 3 million metric tons of emissions—the equivalent of taking more than 500,000 cars off the road for a year.

Mitigating Climate Change through climate smart agriculture

Coffee and other globally important agricultural products often contribute to climate change through clearing forest or using unsustainable soil management practices, both of which release greenhouse gases. Around the world, CI shares best practices and sustainable land-use management techniques with coffee farmers. For instance, in Indonesia our scientists have shown farmers how planting shade trees
among coffee plants and improving coffee management practices can help to produce better quality coffee — and also mitigate the impacts of climate change.

**Climate Change and the Agricultural Frontier**

CI researchers, working with partners around the world, are studying the impacts climate change will have on commodities. From the changes in suitable agricultural area to the effects on the coupled relationships between domestic crops and wild species, CI scientists are trying to predict where the new agricultural frontier driven by climate change will lead. One recent study led by CI examined the effects of climate change on grape agriculture for wine production (viticulture), given grapes’ sensitivity to temperature. The study projected that land suitable for viticulture would move toward the poles, resulting in global redistribution of wine-producing areas and serious consequences for wildlife and ecosystems—including Yellowstone National Park and protected panda habitat in China.

**Using Ecosystem-based Adaptation to adapt to climate change**

Hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods will be impacted as climates shift. CI scientists work on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), an approach that relies on natural ecosystems to help people adapt to climate change. In the Succulent Karoo ecoregion of South Africa, increasing rainfall variability and rising temperatures threaten water resources and the farmers and livestock raisers. CI helped local communities rehabilitate wetlands, which increased groundwater reserves and dry-season reserves of fodder for livestock, improving the area’s natural resilience to climate change.

**CI is also pioneering the application of Ecosystem-based Adaptation in smallholder coffee and subsistence farming communities in Central America**

The project is focused on understanding the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate change, identifying effective adaptation strategies that can help them adapt to climate change, and promoting the incorporation of these strategies into policies, programs and capacity building activities. The CASCADE project focuses particularly on the potential use of EbA to help smallholder farmers adapt to climate change, as this approach takes advantage of existing resources, is low-tech, can be easily adopted by smallholder farmers, and provides important co-benefits to farmers, such as the continued provision of water and pollination services.
“Nature Is Speaking” Campaign Backgrounder

Nature is speaking.

It's telling us it's time to act.

Conservation International (CI) is a leading international NGO that focuses on protecting nature for the benefit of people. Through a combination of field-based programs around the world, cutting-edge scientific analysis and policy-level work, CI finds long-term models for sustainable development. Working in more than 78 countries, it has protected more than 730 million hectares of land, marine and coastal areas, and helped to broker the first debt-for-nature swap in Brazil, establish the world’s largest marine protected area in New Caledonia and create the first certified REDD+ program in Peru.

In 2014, CI launched an awareness campaign called “Nature Is Speaking” to redefine the argument for conservation, from the idea of protecting nature for itself, to protecting nature for the wellbeing of people. At the center of the campaign are celebrity-voiced short films that answer the question: What would nature say if it could speak? The films drive home the vital links between our lives and nature with a central message: Nature doesn’t need people. People need nature.

Conservation International developed the “Nature Is Speaking” video series with MAL\FOR GOOD under the creative direction of Lee Clow, the creative genius behind Apple’s Think Different campaign.

Campaign Highlights To Date

The first “Nature Is Speaking” film debuted a year ago. Since then, the series — comprising eight films with the characters of Mother Nature (Julia Roberts), Ocean (Harrison Ford), Rainforest (Kevin Spacey), Coral Reef (Ian Somerhalder), Soil (Edward Norton), Flower (Lupita Nyong’o), Redwood (Robert Redford) and Water (Penélope Cruz) — has inspired millions around the world with its message.

Key “Nature Is Speaking” statistics:

- 2 billion+ impressions
- 40 million+ video views
- Reach across 33+ countries
- US$ 1 million raised for conservation with the generous support of Hewlett-Packard in April 2015.
- The Ocean, voiced by Harrison Ford, received the prestigious Cannes Gold Lion in 2014.
- Local language debuts in Mandarin (China), Portuguese (Brazil), Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesia) with two films translated into German and nine films with French subtitles coming in November 2015

Building momentum for the global climate talks in Paris: New “Nature Is Speaking” films

Leading up to the 2015 climate negotiations in Paris, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) invited Conservation International to showcase the film series to remind negotiators of the power of nature to combat climate change. Nature’s solutions—such as keeping forests standing,
rebuilding mangroves and improving agricultural practices—represent more than 30% of the solution to climate change yet receive less than 3% of the funding. CI is taking advantage of this global attention by debuting two new films: “Ice,” launching November 12, voiced by Liam Neeson, and an additional film to debut at the Momentum for Change awards on December 10.

Throughout the negotiations, “Nature Is Speaking” will have a presence in Paris Metro advertisements and a billboard on the well-traveled A1 highway to be seen by delegates and media representatives entering the city during this time.

**Key Timeframes**

**November:** CI will use social media to build involvement and passion with the launch of the “Ice” film on November 12 and a new hashtag campaign, #INeedNature. People around the world are invited to post photos of themselves out in nature on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #INeedNature. CI will bring this collection of photos to COP21 in Paris, and through this visual petition, we will show the delegates how much support there is for protecting nature as part of the solution to climate change and how many people are holding them accountable to make smart decisions for our global future.

**December:** CI will host a business roundtable at COP21 to discuss the role of the private sector and nature in addressing climate change. CI will also take center stage at the UN Momentum for Change Awards to present a new film in the “Nature Is Speaking” series.

Together with the new film debuts, social media components, film advertisements, and the entire “Nature Is Speaking” series on display for the general public at the Grand Palais, CI hopes to drive home the understanding that nature herself offers essential solutions for addressing climate change. The “Nature Is Speaking” campaign provides a powerful way to elevate the conversation and inspire a positive outcome for the climate change negotiations.

**The films:**

- **Julia Roberts is Mother Nature**
- **Harrison Ford is The Ocean**
- **Kevin Spacey is The Rainforest**
- **Edward Norton is The Soil**
- **Penélope Cruz is Water (English) & Penélope Cruz is Water (Spanish)**
- **Robert Redford is The Redwood, also starring Lena Redford**
- **Ian Somerhalder is Coral Reef**
- **Lupita Nyong’o is Flower**

Viewers are invited to visit [www.natureisspeaking.org](http://www.natureisspeaking.org), where they can watch the films, learn about the issues and take action, including participating in the #INeedNature photo petition.

**About Conservation International**

Conservation International protects the nature that people around the world rely on for food, freshwater, livelihoods, climate and security. We use science, policy and partnerships to safeguard the forests, rivers,
lakes, coasts, oceans and wetlands that provide food and water, sustain economies and help promote a stable climate.

For more than 25 years, we have been protecting nature for the benefit of everyone on Earth. Human beings are dependent on nature, so when we work to save nature, we’re really working to save ourselves.

www.conservation.org

Conservation International Experts

Peter Seligmann

Peter Seligmann has a vision and a mission. The vision is an environmentally healthy world that will provide economic opportunities and security for all people.

Peter A. Seligmann is the Chairman and CEO of Conservation International, a global nonprofit organization that he co-founded in 1987. Under Peter’s leadership, Conservation International has become a cutting edge leader in valuing and sustainably caring for nature for the well-being of people. Peter, a dynamic communicator and thought leader, has been an influential and inspiring voice in conservation for nearly 40 years. He works in partnership with governments, communities, and businesses to find solutions to ensure the sustainability of our natural resources.

Peter serves on the advisory council for the Jackson Hole Land Trust and is a Director at Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder Holdings, Inc. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Coca-Cola Company's International Advisory Committee. Peter was also named to the Enterprise for the America’s Board by President Clinton in 2000.

Peter began his career in 1976 with The Nature Conservancy, serving as the organization's western region land steward, and later became the director of the California Nature Conservancy. He holds a Master of Science in Forestry and Environmental Science from Yale University and a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology from Rutgers University. Peter has Honorary Doctorates in Science from Michigan State University and Rutgers University.

A world traveler, avid fisherman, and diver, Peter is based in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. M. Sanjayan

Dr. M. Sanjayan is a global conservation scientist, writer, and Emmy-nominated news contributor specializing in the role of
conservation in saving people and nature. He is executive vice president and senior scientist at Conservation International.

In the summer of 2015, Sanjayan co-hosted “Big Blue Live,” PBS’s & BBC’s three-part television event, which showcased marine life on the Pacific Coast and which was the first live primetime natural history show on American television. He also hosted the 2015 PBS and National Geographic television series, “EARTH - A New Wild,” which was filmed in over 24 countries; and was a contributor on Showtime’s Emmy-winning series on climate change, “Years of Living Dangerously.” He has appeared on numerous other programs, including “The Today Show” and “The Late Show with David Letterman,” and was named to Men’s Journal’s list of the “50 Most Adventurous Men” in 2015.

Sanjayan also co-led the launch of “Nature is Speaking” (www.natureisspeaking.org), Conservation International’s critically acclaimed campaign that features Julia Roberts, Harrison Ford, Liam Neeson, and Penelope Cruz, among others; and that delivers a powerful message: people need nature to survive.

Sanjayan is a DisneyNature Ambassador, a Catto Fellow at the Aspen Institute, and a Clinton Global Initiative Advisor; and is on National Geographic Society’s Explorers Council. He posts frequently from his expeditions at @msanjayan.

**Dr. Russell Mittermeier**

Whether clasping the hand of a world leader in a firm handshake or gently cradling a mouse lemur in his palm, there is no one on Earth quite like Dr. Russ Mittermeier. When he isn’t hip deep in piranha-infested waters, he’s hammering out agreements between Conservation International and indigenous tribes or multinational corporations.

Named a "hero for the planet" by TIME Magazine, Russell A. Mittermeier is regarded as a world leader in the field of biodiversity and tropical forest conservation. Trained as a primatologist and herpetologist, he has traveled widely in nearly 160 countries on seven continents, and has conducted field work in more than 20. Russell has an interest in the discovery and description of species new to science and has described a total of 12 new species, eight which are named in his honor.

Russell has helped promote the concept of "avoided deforestation" by highlighting the importance of tropical forests in mitigating climate change and has also been a leader in promoting species-focused ecotourism. Russell's lifelong interest in tribal peoples has led to his work with many different communities, from the Trio of southern Suriname to the Kayapo of the Brazilian Amazon. Russell has engaged them in a variety of different conservation endeavors, and has published on the strong connections between biodiversity and human cultural diversity, demonstrating how strongly the highest priority areas for each overlap.
The man once described as the Indiana Jones of conservation is the only working field biologist who is also the Executive Vice Chair of a major international environmental organization, and he brings the daring and ingenuity that have served him so well in the field to his role at CI.

**Jennifer Morris**

Jennifer Morris provides strategic leadership for Conservation International and is responsible for the alignment of the organization’s program and operational functions as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Jennifer also leads the Ecosystem Finance Division in investing in strategic projects which support CI’s mission of sustainable development.

There are five diverse funds in this Division under her management, totaling US$ 330 million in total capital. The newest fund in the group is CI’s Carbon Fund which provides funding to monetize carbon for the benefit of local communities in CI priority areas.

Prior to leading the Ecosystem Finance Division, Jennifer played a key role in assisting local CI partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America to analyze, structure and develop community-based businesses and credit instruments for the development of rural micro and small enterprises which support conservation.

Prior to joining CI, Jennifer was a business development consultant with a micro-finance institution and has lived and worked in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Jennifer has a bachelor’s in political science from Emory University and a master’s in international affairs with a business development and micro-finance focus from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

**Dr. Gregory Stone**

Dr. Greg Stone, Executive Vice President of Conservation International, is one of the world’s leading authorities on marine conservation policy and ocean health issues.

A lifelong scientific explorer and prolific diver, with more than 8,000 dives to date in every sea on Earth, Greg has lived underwater for 30 days in a habitat and has dived to 18,000 feet in submersibles. He is currently vice chair of the World Economic Forum’s Global Council on Ocean Governance and has received numerous awards including the US Navy and National Science Foundation Antarctic Service Medal. Dr. Stone has given a TED talk and appeared in Discovery Channel and National Geographic documentaries.

Born in Boston, Greg is an ocean scientist who did early pioneering research in Antarctica on marine mammals and later ice ecology where he mastered the art of diving into icebergs. He was awarded the
National Science Foundation/U.S. Navy Antarctic Service medal for research in the Antarctic, and his book Ice Island was awarded the 2003 National Outdoor Book Award for Nature and the Environment.

Since 2000, Greg has led the effort to create one of the world's largest marine protected areas around the Phoenix Islands in Kiribati using, for the first time, market-based mechanisms to conserve ocean biodiversity, which encourage economic opportunity for local communities. For this accomplishment, he was named one of National Geographic Society’s Heroes of 2007 and is considered an authority on these innovative marine conservation models.

Greg has a passion for marine technology and for communicating his work to the broader public. He was senior editor of the Marine Technology Society Journal, is a world authority on New Zealand’s Hector’s dolphin — one of the world’s most endangered — is an undersea technology and exploration specialist using deep-sea submersibles, has produced an award-winning series of marine conservation films and has lectured throughout the world. Greg has also written prolifically for science and popular publications including Nature and National Geographic.

He is a National Fellow of the Explorers Club, a recipient of the Pew Fellowship for Marine Conservation, an honorary associate professor at the Leigh Marine Laboratory at the University of Auckland, New Zealand and was named one of the five “Bostonians of the Year” by the Boston Globe in 2008.

His sixth story in National Geographic was published in September, 2012 about seamounts. His most recent book, Underwater Eden, was released in December 2012 by University of Chicago Press.

**Shyla Raghav**

Shyla Raghav leads CI’s climate policy team to build and support the development and implementation of sound regional, national and international science-based climate change policies.

Shyla and her interdisciplinary global team engage with key partners to amplify CI’s successful climate change strategies, which demonstrate that ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation offer tremendous opportunities for meeting the climate challenge. Having attended nearly a decade of United Nations climate change negotiations at the international level, she works closely with governments to inform their positions and policies on finance and climate change adaptation. Prior to joining CI, Shyla worked on multiple adaptation projects in the field addressing water scarcity and food security with organizations such as the Global Environment Facility, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center, the UNFCCC, and the UNDP country office in Bangkok. Her work has been instrumental in developing tools to help developing countries adapt to climate change by integrating ecosystems into their climate policies. Shyla holds a master’s in environmental management from Yale University and a B.A. and B.S. from the University of California, Irvine.
**Dr. Emily Pidgeon**

Dr. Emily Pidgeon works on developing solutions for coastal and marine adaptation to climate change and on marine based approaches for mitigation through "blue carbon."

Dr. Emily Pidgeon is the Senior Director of Conservation International's Strategic Marine Initiatives, which is focused on solutions for coastal and marine adaptation to climate change and on developing marine based approaches for mitigation through "blue carbon."

Emily has a broad background in marine sciences. After completing her Ph.D. in environmental engineering at Stanford University, she was a research scientist working on coastal oceanography problems at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California. Emily has also worked in the oil and gas industry and as a consultant addressing pollutant issues in coastal waters.

At CI, Emily’s primary focus is integrating ocean sciences into effective conservation strategies and field implementation. This particularly includes addressing the impacts of climate change on coastal and ocean communities and environments.

**Dr. Steven Panfil**

Dr. Steven Panfil, Technical Advisor for REDD+, has more than 20 years of experience with the implementation of forest research and conservation in developing countries and is an authority on protecting and restoring forests as a way to fight climate change. Steve leads CI’s REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) policy team, and conducts research on ways in which REDD+ can be implemented to maximize social and biodiversity benefits. His other experience related to REDD+ includes the management of the leading social and environmental standards, analysis of the application of social and environmental standards and safeguards for REDD+, social and environmental impact assessment for REDD+, the development of training courses and publications, technical support to governments and civil society, and the design of REDD+ projects. Steve is bilingual in English and Spanish, having resided in Peru and Bolivia for more than 10 years. Steve holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.
Johnson Cerda

Johnson Cerda conducts research related to climate change, biodiversity and protected areas in Ecuador. Johnson is currently a member of the GEF/NGO Committee that represents the indigenous peoples of Latin America.

Johnson Cerda is an indigenous Kichwa of the Ecuadorian Amazon (Comuna Santa Elena – Limoncocha). Mr. Cerda has worked with indigenous organizations in Ecuador and also in the regional organization of the Amazon CONFENIAE. He has collaborated with government institutions in Ecuador such as the Development Council of Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador (CODENPE) and the Institute for Eco development of the Amazon Region (ECORAE). In 2000, Johnson was nominated by indigenous organizations in the Amazon to serve as Co-Director of the Amazon Alliance in Washington, DC where he worked until 2005. He has since returned to work in Ecuador, conducting research related to climate change, biodiversity and protected areas. He is a former member of the Indigenous Parliament of the Ecuadorian Amazon representing FOKISE, and was a member of a Technical Advisory Panel of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank; he is currently a member of the GEF/NGO Committee representing indigenous peoples of Latin America. Mr. Cerda has started working with Conservation International as Indigenous Advisor since February 2009.

Dr. Rodrigo Medeiros

Dr. Rodrigo Medeiros is a leading biologist with extensive knowledge of protected areas, biodiversity and sustainable development. His main areas of focus are policy, governance, assessment and integrating society and conservation.

Rodrigo first joined CI in 2013 as a senior director for science and now serves as the vice president of CI Brazil.

Previously, Rodrigo worked as a visiting professor at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.

He holds an M.S. in ecology and a Ph.D. in geography from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. There, he was the first coordinator of the International Master Program in Sustainable Development Practice and the environmental management undergraduate program. He later created the International Center for Sustainable Development Studies, of which he served as the first Dean.
Rodrigo is a member of the Academic Committee of the Global Association of Masters in Development Practice, representing Latin America. He also serves as co-chair of the Brazilian hub of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

**Enrique Nunez**

Enrique Nunez's work focuses on the future efforts in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and Palawan by enhancing the adaptive capacities of communities and using a model climate resilient transboundary network of marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries.

Enrique Nunez is the country executive director for CI-Philippines. The Philippines program will focus future efforts on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and Palawan. The program is looking to enhance the adaptive capacities of communities in Sulu Sulawesi by using a model climate resilient transboundary network of marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries.

The Philippines program will house the regional geographic information system (GIS) capacity for the region. The program focuses on regional policy, particularly in engagement with the Asian Development Bank. In this role, CI can become a trusted advisor to guide the Asian Development Bank in its development investments, and will help to engage the USAID Mission in Manila, which manages Pacific investments.

Enrique has over a decade of experience on environmental and natural resource management, having previously worked for environmental NGOs and development agencies. He has experience in coastal and marine conservation; uplands and community forestry issues; biodiversity and protected area management; climate change and indigenous peoples' concerns.