



# **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are among the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced. As the planet warms, ecosystems are pushed to their limits, species are disappearing at unprecedented rates, and the essential services nature provides — from clean air and water to food and shelter — are under threat.

Yet nature remains a powerful, often overlooked ally in addressing these crises. Protecting and restoring critical ecosystems, such as tropical forests and mangroves, could contribute at least 30 percent of the global effort needed to prevent the worst climate outcomes, prevent further biodiversity loss on land and in the oceans, and improve human well-being.

Our strategy is to bring the best innovations in science, policy and finance to restore and protect nature for people. Geographically, Conservation International works primarily in the tropics, which house the highest global concentrations of carbon and biodiversity — that's where we can make the biggest impact.

In the following pages, we'll show you examples of our work that highlight our progress around the world.







09. Alto Mayo, Peru, © Trond Larsen I 25. Bora Bora, French Polynesia, © Cristina Mittermeier/SeaLegacy I 39. Welverdiend and Dixie villages, Bushbuckridge, South Africa, © M&M Pictures I 47. Kenya, © Jonathan Irish I 67. Kalimpong, West Bengal, India, © Conservation International photo by Sagar Biswakarma

01 Board of Directors

02 Leadership Council

03 Letter From The Chairman

04 ····· Letter From The CEO

05 Where We Deploy Conservation Funding

09 ····· Nature for Climate

25 ····· Ocean Conservation at Scale

39 ····· Regenerative Economies

47 ..... Innovations in Science and Finance

61 Reimagining Conservation

67 ······ What's Next

77 ····· Our Financials

83 ······ Our Supporters

86 ······ Regional and Programmatic Boards and Councils

88 Distinguished and Senior Fellows

89 ······ Senior Staff

92 ····· You Power Our Mission

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

As of June 30, 2024

#### LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

As of June 30, 2024

#### **CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

Peter A. Seligmann

Founder and Chairman, Conservation International

#### CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wes Bush

Former Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer,
Northrop Grumman Corporation

**VICE CHAIR** 

**Harrison Ford** 

Actor

**BOARD MEMBERS** 

John Arnhold

Managing Member, Arnhold LLC

Samantha Bass

Photographer

Mark S. Bezos

Founding Partner, Highpost Capital, LLC

Kristina Brittenham

Co-Chief Executive Officer, Nest Global

Iván Duque

Former President of Colombia

Idris Elba, OBE

Actor

**André Esteves** 

Senior Partner, Banco BTG Pactual S/A

Mark Ferguson

Founding Partner, Generation Investment Management Robert J. Fisher

Victor Fung, Ph.D.

Chairman, Fung Group

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

Founder and Coordinator, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT); Lui-Walton Senior Indigenous Fellow

Lisa Jackson

Vice President, Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives, Apple, Inc.

Reed Jobs

Yosemite

Hon. Andy Karsner

Senior Strategist, [X] - The Moonshot Factory (Alphabet's Labs) Executive Chairman, Elemental Labs

David Leuschen

Co-Founder and Senior Managing
Director, Riverstone Holdings

Yvonne Lui, Ph.D.

Founder, Yvonne L. K. Lui Trust

Valerie Mars

Mars, Incorporated

Stella McCartney, CBE, OBE

Creative Director, Stella McCartney Ltd

**Anders Holch Povisen** 

CEO & Owner, Bestseller

Isaac Pritzker

Principal, Tao Capital Partners

Stewart A. Resnick

Chairman of the Board,
The Wonderful Company

Story Clark Resor

Chief Executive Officer, TravelStorysGPS

M. Sanjayan, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer,
Conservation International

**Andres Santo Domingo** 

Kemado Label Group

John Swift

Conservationist

Enki Tan, M.D.

Executive Chairman, Giti Tire Global Trading Pte Ltd.

**Byron Trott** 

Chairman and Co-Chief Executive
Officer, BDT & MSD Partners

**Rob Walton** 

Chairman of the Board (retired), Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

David S. Winter

Co-Chief Executive Officer, Standard Industries

Shailene Woodley

CHAIRPERSON

Daniel A. Shaw

Woody Creek, Colorado

VICE CHAIRPERSON

**Kelly Chapman** 

Seattle, Washington

**MEMBERS** 

**Catherine Allchin** 

Seattle, Washington

Lisa Anderson

Seattle, Washington

Patrice Auld

Seattle, Washington

Steven Bell

Estes Park, Colorado

Tom Byers

Palo Alto, California

Anisa Kamadoli Costa

New York, New York

John de Neufville

Santa Monica, California

**Alan Dynner** 

Boston, Massachusetts

Lisa Dynner

Boston, Massachusetts

Mary C. Gallo

Modesto, California

Michael Haas

Oakland, California

Ellen Bronfman Hauptman

Los Angeles, California

Sarah E. Johnson

Palm Beach, Florida

Nick Kukrika

London, United Kingdom

Frans Lanting

Santa Cruz, California

Aileen Lee

Palo Alto, California

Finn T. Longinotto

Miami Beach, Florida

Patrick Maloney

Venice, California

Kris Moore

Los Altos Hills, California

Seth Neiman

San Francisco, California

Philip O'Connor

Missoula, Montana

Austin O'Reilly
Austin, Texas

Lee Pace

New York, New York

Lee Rhodes

Seattle, Washington

**Nancy Morgan Ritter** 

Los Angeles, California

**Jeff Rosenthal** Austin, Texas

Maureen Schafer Las Vegas, Nevada

Jesse Sisgold

Los Angeles, California

**Richard Sneider** 

Los Angeles, California

Wm. Laney Thornton

San Francisco, California

**Kevin Vilkin**Austin, Texas

Katie Vogelheim

Tiburon, California

**Shannon Wong** 

Gillian Wynn

Manhattan Beach, California

Santa Monica, California

Dear friends,

In 1985, legendary biologist Michael Soulé sounded an alarm.

His landmark paper, "What is Conservation Biology?" argued that biodiversity loss wasn't just another research topic — it was a crisis. The threats to nature were urgent, he said, and scientists couldn't afford to wait for all the facts. His call to action was bold, even unsettling: Work with uncertainty. Trust your instincts. Act anyway.

Soulé's words gave permission — even a mandate — to act with urgency. One year later, in January of 1987, we started Conservation International. We committed to finding bold, outside-the-box ideas. In the ensuing decades, we pioneered the first debt-for-nature swap and popularized the concept of biodiversity hotspots; we focused on protecting ecological systems, recognizing that biodiversity will survive if communities and families benefit from conservation; we developed new models of sustainable agriculture and used artificial intelligence to map the world's most carbon-intensive, irreplaceable ecosystems. We even changed our mission to underscore that humanity needs nature to thrive.

And yet, our movement has fallen short. Short-sighted political and business leaders, focusing on short-term political and financial gain, falsely claimed that we needed to choose between environmental health and economic health. The results: Emissions skyrocketed, while wildlife populations and ecosystem vitality plummeted. We are barreling past climate thresholds while leaders split hairs over language. It's painful and obvious that the systems we've relied on — the conferences, the commitments, the cautious pace — are insufficient for the progress we need.

So, what must we do to change our dangerous trajectory? We must be resilient in the face of denial. We must use

every tool at our disposal to protect ecological systems and to communicate to the public that humanity needs nature to thrive.

These are unsettling and uncertain times, to say the very least. But that should only reinforce Soulé's directive: If we hold out for certainty, we will always be a step behind. Conservation was — and still is — a crisis discipline. That means we must be bold; try things that haven't been done; trust science; and listen to, and learn from, those communities who have respected their relationship with the natural world.

At Conservation International, we are focused on reigniting this movement's spark. We are linking protection of the Earth with creation of jobs. We are committed to keeping carbon out of the atmosphere through the protection of forests, grasslands and mangroves. We are committed to supporting Indigenous Peoples in their efforts to protect the vast territories that have been their homes for millennia.

This has been a year of great accomplishment on each of these fronts. In just the past year, we helped broker a major debt-for-nature swap between the U.S. and Indonesia. We launched an ambitious effort to protect one million hectares of land alongside communities in India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal. And from the savannas of Africa to the mist-shrouded rainforests of Cambodia to the sprawling mangroves that line nearly every continent, we're helping local communities secure real, lasting gains for the nature we all depend on.

We take this responsibility seriously. Every day, our team comes to work ready to reject the status quo, to relinquish the comfort of "good" for the promise of "great." Intuition, really, is a matter of trust. Do we trust our vision? Our colleagues? Ourselves?

Without hesitation, I do.

**Peter Seligmann**Chairman of the Board

Peter Schamann

Dear friends.

I have always loved nature.

That may seem simple, even obvious, but that love is the foundation of my life. My earliest memories are in Sri Lanka, looking for colorful aquarium fish in flooded irrigation canals behind our home. In the decades that followed, I dedicated my life to protecting nature, and my love remains as strong as ever. One of the great joys of this work has been meeting people of all backgrounds, from around the world, who feel that same spiritual comfort and joy. There are more of us than I ever realized.

But I have also come to understand that this challenge of conservation is a practical one. Everything we have, use and need can be traced back to nature. Saving nature, then, is not primarily an act of love — it's about valuing our future.

Right now, that future feels uneasy. As I write this, tornadoes are ripping through the Eastern United States, and London is experiencing its hottest spring day on record. The world's great rainforests are nearing catastrophic tipping points, and once-vibrant coral reefs are facing near-constant bleaching. The responsibility on our shoulders is heavy, and the world just got more complex and unpredictable. Love can only take us so far.

So, what should Conservation International do?

First, we move fast. We must double down on our defining strengths: speed and flexibility. Second, we innovate and scale rapidly. Since our founding, we have put breakthrough products on the table and pushed the bounds of the conservation movement, from the very first debt-for-nature swap in Bolivia, to the first verified "blue carbon" project in Colombia, to the Herding for Health program in Africa. Innovation must continue to be our

defining purpose. Third, we deepen our commitment to our community, to all of you who make this work possible; that is our defining value. At a moment when we seem so divided, from identity to income, nature remains our grand unifier.

In the following pages, you will see our tireless effort to live up to these ideals — creating breakthrough ideas that protect and restore nature for people. You will read about how we are linking the protection of wildlife and wild places to the production of materials we all need; uplifting millions of people by creating new jobs in the bioeconomy; and building financial resilience into our projects so that our impact can outlast us, and so our dollars work much harder.

Our work is not easy — nor inevitable. But it is essential: for the future of my daughter and your children, our security and stability, our jobs and prosperity, and our spiritual well-being. We are fortunate to have you with us on this journey. After all, saving nature is really about saving ourselves.



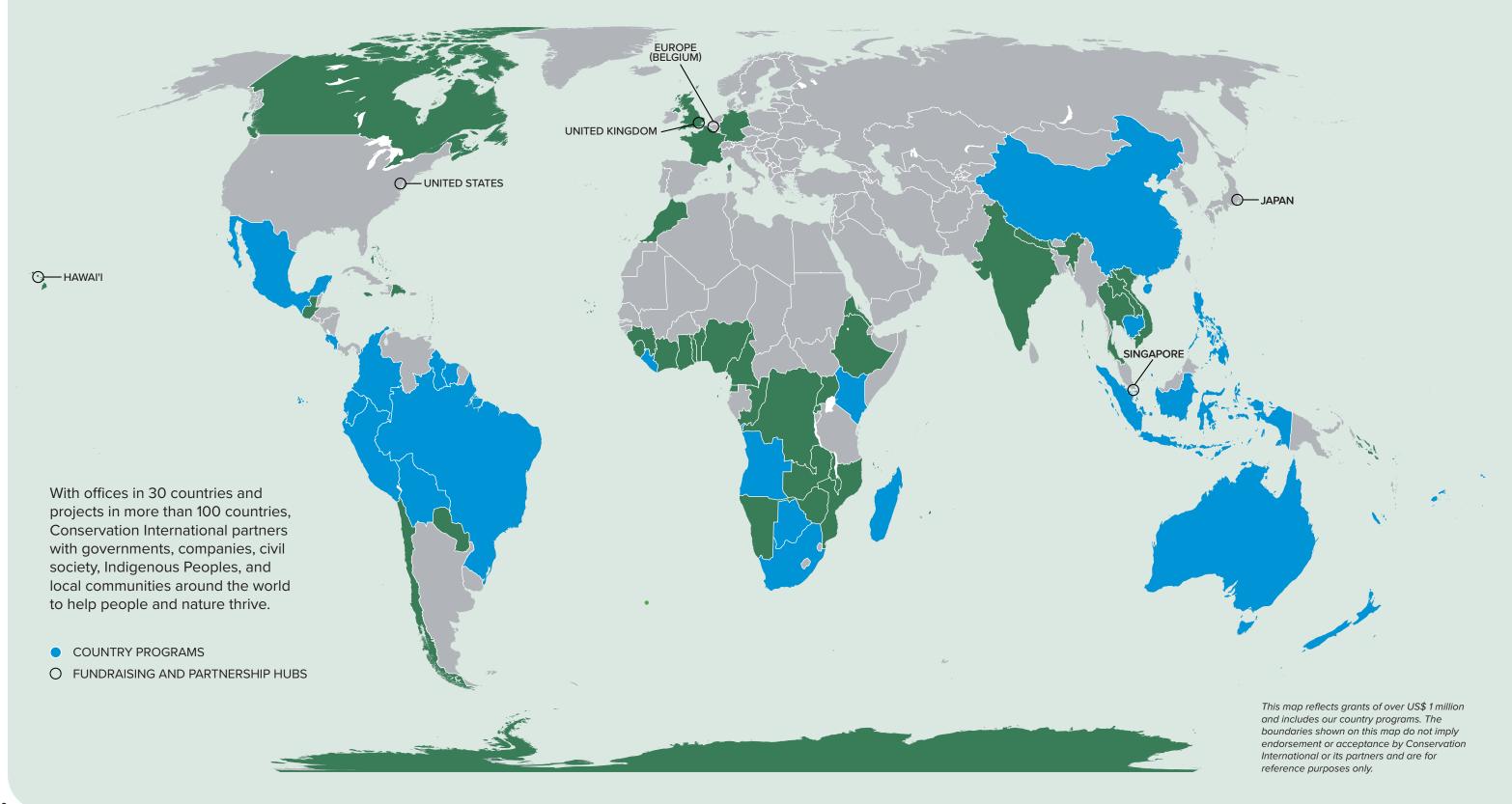
M. Jyj —

Dr. M. Sanjayan

Chief Executive Officer

Ĩ3

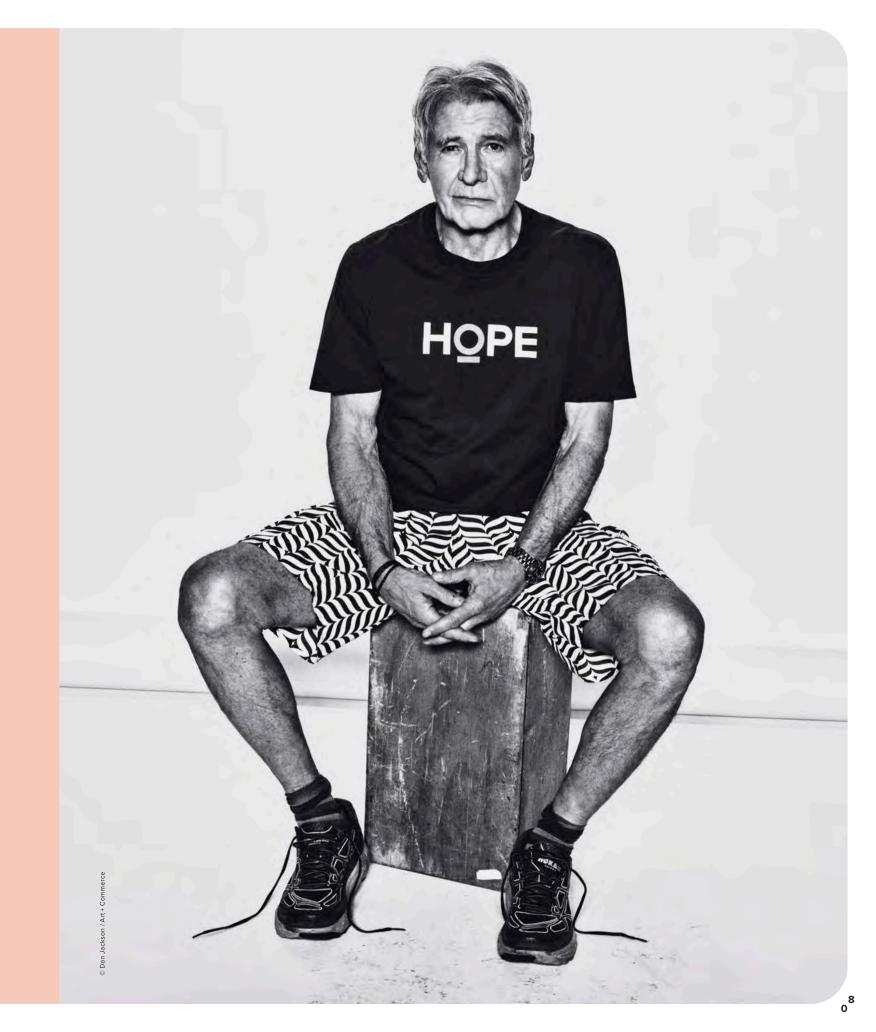
# WHERE WE DEPLOY CONSERVATION FUNDING



We face an unprecedented crisis of climate and nature. In an emergency like this one, hope is a defiant, necessary act.

#### HARRISON FORD

Vice Chair, Conservation International

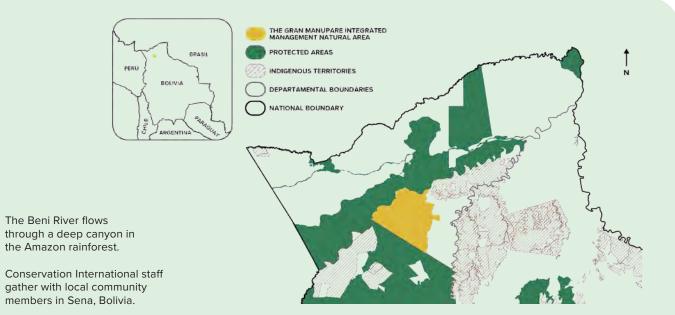




## SMALL TOWN, BIG IMPACT

WITH SUPPORT FROM CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL, the tiny town of Sena passed a law protecting 450,000 hectares (1.1 million acres) of remote lowland forest in northwestern Bolivia. This newly protected area is the latest addition to a vast conservation corridor — built not by the national government, but by local communities taking forest protection into their own hands.



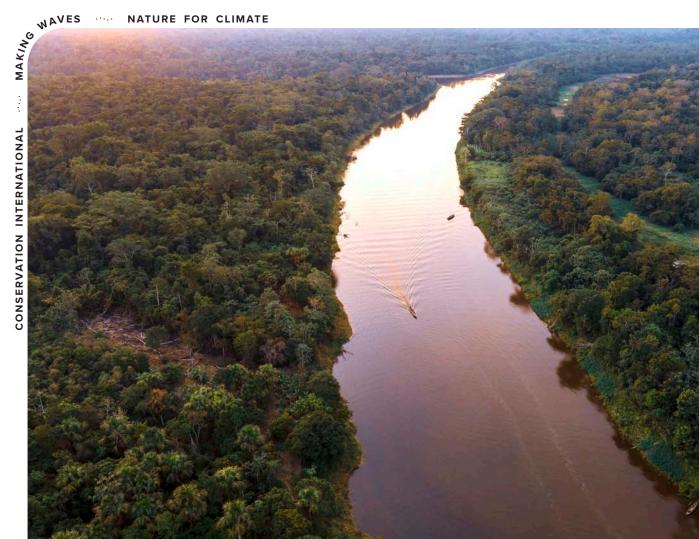


Over the past 25 years, Bolivian towns like Sena have protected a combined 100,000 contiguous square kilometers (38,600 square miles) of Bolivia's Amazon — an area nearly the size of Iceland — securing livelihoods, protecting endangered wildlife and helping the country reach its goal to protect 30 percent of its land years ahead of schedule.

Scientists have said that 80 percent of the Amazon basin needs to be conserved. With about half already under some form of legal conservation status, much progress has been made, but much remains. Conservation International's ambitious goal: protect 200,000 square kilometers (77,200 square miles) by supporting the creation of new conservation areas and the titling of Indigenous territories.

"Piece by piece, we are knitting together the fabric of conservation in the Amazon," said Eduardo Forno, vice president of Conservation International-Bolivia. "Local communities have kept their eyes on the prize. They are having a big impact on the Amazon — for the benefit of us all."





- Peatlands in the Amazon can store vast amounts of carbon, locking it away beneath deep layers of plant matter accumulated over centuries.
- 2 Mistbelt forests blanket the mountains of South Africa's Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve.
- A towering tree rises above the flooded forests of Tonlé Sap, Cambodia.



#### **CRITICAL CARBON AT RISK**

LAST YEAR, Conservation International and the French government announced a US\$ 2.7 million investment aimed at keeping 235 million metric tons of carbon across South America where it belongs: locked up in trees and soils.

The announcement is a critical step in spotlighting and securing the places that humanity needs most to protect to stop a climate catastrophe. And it came about as a direct result of Conservation International research.

In 2020, groundbreaking research by Conservation International scientists for the first time mapped nature's stashes of climate-warming carbon.

New findings released by Conservation International in 2024 underscored the significance of this "irrecoverable carbon," defined as carbon that if emitted into the atmosphere could not be restored by 2050.

What researchers found: Earth has lost 2 billion metric tons of irrecoverable carbon since 2018 — an amount greater than the United States' annual greenhouse gas emissions, says Conservation International scientist Allie Goldstein, who co-led the research.

But they also found reasons for hope: Roughly a quarter of the world's irrecoverable carbon is already located within protected areas — increasing that amount by just 5 percent in key areas would keep a whopping 75 percent of irrecoverable carbon out of the atmosphere.

Once again, Conservation International science led to action — and is blazing a new trail to a safe climate future.



01. Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Peru, © Musuk Nolte | 02. Greater Kruger Nation

L



# A NEW 'WAVE' OF CONSERVATION?

SURF BREAKS aren't just prized for their beauty and epic waves — they're also a powerful force against climate change.

Thousands of surf breaks worldwide are surrounded by ecosystems that store massive amounts of potentially planet-warming carbon, according to new research by scientists from Conservation International and others.

Researchers mapped more than 4,800 popular surf spots across 113 countries and found that they store the same amount of carbon as the emissions from 77 million gas-powered cars.

"Our findings strengthen the case for protecting surf breaks and the surrounding ecosystems," said Scott Atkinson, Conservation International's surf conservation lead. This research can help motivate governments to create what are known as "Surf Protected Areas" — to date, Conservation International has helped create 23 such areas in Indonesia and is working to strengthen more in Costa Rica, Peru and Brazil.

- Surf Conservation youth ambassador Harlan Birch surfing in Sumba, Indonesia.
- Waves crash against the shore in Lifao Village, Indonesia, a protected surf area.
- Surf conservation team members monitor coastal habitats off Morotai, Indonesia.
- 4 A sandbar stretches out into the ocean off Tabalenge Island, Indonesia.





# CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ON FARMS, FORESTS

AROUND THE WORLD, planting crops has often meant cutting down trees — with disastrous impacts on biodiversity and the climate. But are forests and farms really at odds?

A new study from Conservation International says no, pointing to ways for them to co-exist — and even fight climate change without cutting into food production.

In fact, the researchers write, the world's agricultural lands could store as much carbon as the global pollution of all the world's cars.

Looking across the entire area studied, says Conservation International's Starry Sprenkle-Hyppolite, the study's lead author, "even adding just a few trees per hectare could have a massive impact."





- Through the Priceless Planet Coalition, Conservation International is helping restore
   million trees to Madagascar's rice-growing regions.
- Conservation International experts measure stands of Spanish cedar, a native hardwood species, on a plantation in Huila, Colombia.
- Starbucks and Conservation International are delivering coffee plants bred for a warming climate to farmers like Dominga Araceli Santeliz Godinez.

Madagascar, © Conservation International/photo by Ruth Metzel Huila, Colombia, © Conservation International/photo by Starry ankle. Hornolita I 03. Chianas. Movino, © Inchia Traillin Starburks

1\_

## 'CLIMATE-SMART' FARMING REAPS RESULTS

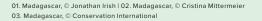
IN MADAGASCAR, where extreme weather has worsened poverty and malnutrition, farmers are caught in a Catch-22: Climate change threatens their crops and livelihoods, prompting them to expand their farms by cutting down trees. This, in turn, intensifies the effect of droughts, flooding and erosion.



But a Conservation International project there suggests that farmers can break this cycle through "climate-smart" farming, such as using drought-resistant crops, mulching to prevent erosion and planting native fruit trees that provide new sources of income.

A recent report about the project found that farmers who adopted such practices were not only less likely to deforest surrounding land, they also had greater food security — which is crucial in a country where about a third of the population does not have enough food.

"The farmers that are changing their practices are seeing results," said Camila Donatti, a Conservation International expert on climate change who authored the report. "Climate change is already negatively impacting crop production around the world. These findings show that we can make a difference in a short amount of time."





- Installing terraces can prevent deforestation by reducing the need to clear additional land for farming.
- 2 Malagasy women tend to rice paddies.
- 3 Sustainable agriculture is helping smallholder farmers adapt to a changing climate.



**-**9



## **'SCIENCE YOU CAN DANCE TO'**

CONSERVATIONISTS HAVE LONG KNOWN that coastal mangroves, seagrasses and marshes are invaluable, not only for their marine life, but also the vast amounts of carbon stored away in their thick mud.



Betsabe, a crocodile conservationist, prepares to release an American crocodile into Cispatá Bay, helping to restore a population once on the brink.

Last year, though, this "blue" carbon became the star of its own film, hosted by Grammy-nominated DJ (and marine toxicologist) Jayda Guy. The CNN documentary, "Blue Carbon: Nature's Hidden Power," brought viewers to the heart of some of the world's most important — and often overlooked — ecosystems. Thanks to several individual and foundation donors, Conservation International was a key funder and producer of the film.

The film shines a light on Conservation International's mangrove protection in Colombia's Cispatá Bay, including the local community that is benefiting immensely from the sale of carbon credits derived from the protection of nature.

Featuring a score from Wu-Tang Clan's RZA and Brazilian pop-samba star Seu Jorge, the film marries music, nature and climate action.

"This is science you can dance to," Guy says in the film.



The documentary is now available for streaming on Hulu.

hulu.com/movie/a92fdf9f-45ba-442f-90ec-6374e2fba9d4





## IN INDONESIAN WATERS, A NEW DEBT SWAP MAKES WAVES

LAST YEAR, the government of Indonesia announced a deal to redirect more than US\$ 35 million it owes to the United States into the conservation of coral reefs in the most biodiverse ocean area on Earth.



- 2 Significant new funding is flowing toward coral reef ecosystems like Raja Ampat, where Conservation International has worked for two decades.
- A clownfish peeks out from a sea anemone in West Papua, Indonesia.
- The debt swap will benefit many marine species, including the migratory whale shark.

The swap will fund coral restoration in two key areas of the Pacific Ocean's Coral Triangle that encompass three-quarters of the world's coral species and more than 3,000 species of fish, turtles, sharks, whales and dolphins.

Conservation International worked on enabling the deal and has committed to furnishing US\$ 3 million to support the debt swap. While Indonesia has participated in three earlier swaps, this will be the world's first to focus on protecting coral reefs.

In 1987, Conservation International pioneered the first-ever "debt-for-nature" swap, enabling the government of Bolivia to retire US\$ 650,000 in foreign debt (US\$ 1.8 million in today's dollars) in exchange for establishing three protected areas near the headwaters of the Amazon. Groundbreaking at the time, such debt swaps now are a mainstay of conservation.

"We never imagined that this critical mechanism to alleviate burdensome debt and protect the world's most valuable ecosystems would eventually unlock billions for global conservation," said Conservation International CEO M. Sanjayan after the deal was announced.



<sup>-</sup>7

#### EXPEDITION FINDS TROVE OF POTENTIALLY UNDISCOVERED SPECIES

AROUND OUR BLUE PLANET, a raft of new discoveries provided a powerful reminder that there is much that our species does not know about what lies beneath the waves.



01. Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges, Pacífic Ocean, © Schmidt Ocean Instit 02. Tokelau Ridge, Phoenix Islands Protected Area, © Schmidt Ocean Instit 03. Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges, Pacífic Ocean, © Schmidt Ocean Instit

- One of the new species spotted is a fish that uses its fins like hands to "walk" on the sea floor.
- 2 A glass octopus spotted during a similar expedition to the remote Phoenix Islands in the Pacific Ocean in 2021.
- 3 The expedition uncovered a new species of whip-lash squid, named for its long, sticky tentacles.

A recent deep-sea expedition off the coasts of Chile and Peru is revealing the secrets of a vast underwater mountain system — and making the strongest case yet for greater protections there.

Using underwater robots capable of descending more than 4,500 meters (14,760 feet), researchers say they may have discovered more than 100 never-before-seen species living on the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges, which stretch across the southeastern Pacific. The monthlong expedition, led by the Schmidt Ocean Institute — with funding from Conservation International, the Blue Nature Alliance and Coral Reefs of the High Seas Coalition — explored 10 seamounts, some for the first time.

Ocean advocates hope a high seas treaty approved by the United Nations in 2023 will help create new marine protected areas to shield international waters from increasing threats — arguing that the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges should be one of the first areas considered for protection.

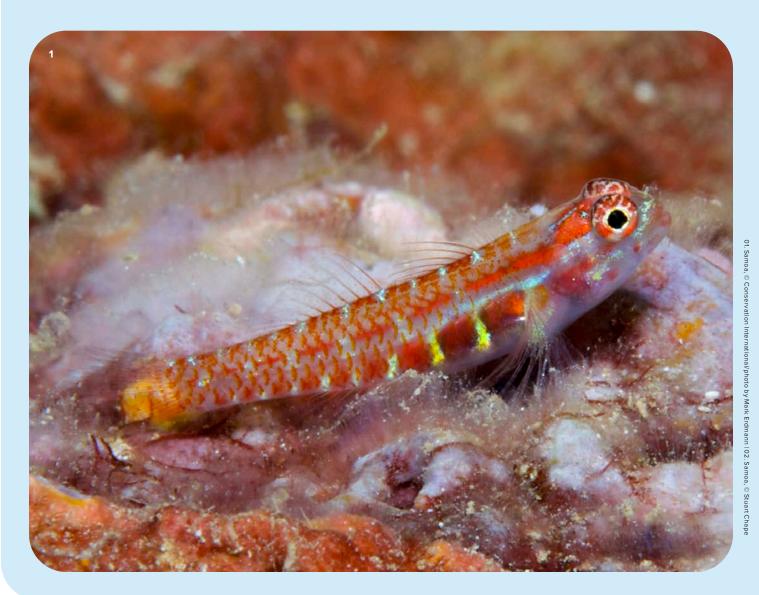


SEE EYE-POPPING IMAGES FROM THE EXPEDITION.

conservation.org/blog/deep-seaexpedition-reveals-over-100-newspecies-in-the-pacific

#### REEF DIVE NETS BIG FIND: A TINY NEW SPECIES

ONE SPECIES DISCOVERY was years in the making before it was confirmed in 2024.





- Eviota taeiae, a new species of dwarfgoby, is named after Sue Taei, a biologist who led Conservation International's programs in the Pacific.
- 2 Erdmann spotted the new fish while diving in waters off Samoa.

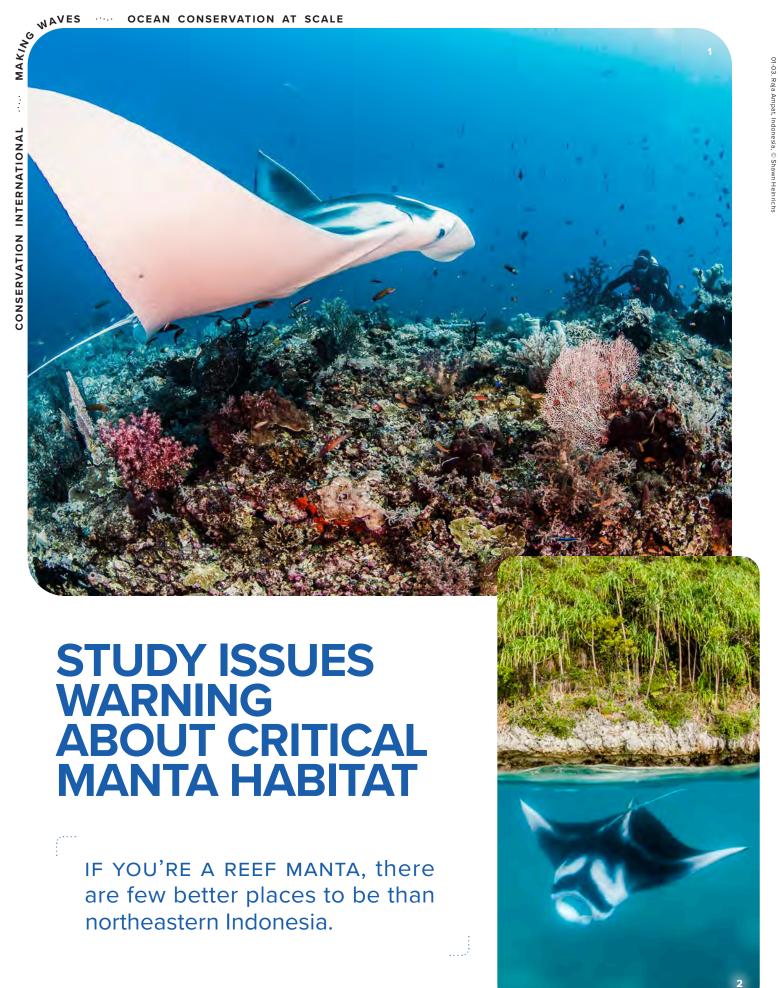
Diving in the waters of Samoa, Mark Erdmann watched as a haze of colorful little fish — each no bigger than a raisin — hovered over a coral reef, nearly motionless to avoid predators.

With the dazzling diversity of species that live on a coral reef, Erdmann, a Conservation International marine biologist, might have easily overlooked the fish, called dwarfgobies. To the untrained eye, they are nearly indistinguishable from dozens of similar species. But on this dive nearly a decade ago, he glimpsed something new on the little fishes: a red stripe across the top of the heads and a pattern of white

- spokes radiating outward from the pupils.
- "I immediately recognized it as a different species," he said.

Sure enough, it was a new species of the tiny fish known as the "rice of the reef," as they are critical to reef ecosystems — nearly every other reef fish snacks on them for food.

"For many people, it's almost unbelievable that we're still discovering new species in 2024," Erdmann said. "But there's still so much we don't know about our planet. We need to work doubly hard to protect it because we're losing species we didn't even know existed."





- While manta rays are open-ocean animals, they use reef areas for rest and social interactions.
- 2 A reef manta pup swims below the surface of Wayag Lagoon, a protected area in Raja Ampat.
- 3 Despite their massive size, manta rays are graceful swimmers, gliding effortlessly through the ocean.

In the clear blue seas of the Raja Ampat archipelago, these marine giants — up to 4 meters, or 14 feet, in wingspan — are thriving. In fact, it's the only place on Earth where their populations are growing, thanks to strong marine protections dating back more than a decade.

Now, research from Conservation International and its local partner, Konservasi Indonesia, is renewing concerns about a threat to these pristine waters: nickel mining.

Experts worry that rising prices for the precious metal, spurred by growing demand for electric vehicles, could imperil a critical habitat just outside of Raja Ampat's vast marine protected areas, which span 6.7 million hectares (16.5 million acres) — an area twice the size of Taiwan.

The researchers plan to use the study's findings to rally support to prevent nickel mining in the area and to extend the marine protected areas to include Eagle Rock. Mark Erdmann, a Conservation International marine biologist and a co-author of the research, is optimistic they will be successful given that Raja Ampat is classified as an area of strategic national importance for marine biodiversity, and the growing concern within Indonesia for the negative impacts of mining in small island environments.

Ultimately, the new study reinforces that a deep understanding of how species exist in their habitats can improve conservation efforts.

#### HUNTING 'GHOSTS' OF THE SEA

FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, Edgardo Ochoa has picked away at a problem.

 Divers remove discarded fishing nets during an event sponsored by the fashion brand H&M and Conservation International.

- 2 A third of fishing lines and 6 percent of nets are lost to the sea, where they smother coral and entangle wildlife.
- Ochoa leads Conservation International's dive safety sessions, covering underwater signals and how to safely cut, lift and remove fishing nets.

A net here, some fishing line there — Conservation International's marine and diving safety officer has single-handedly scooped up thousands of pounds of abandoned fishing gear from the bottom of the sea.

It's impressive, but it's not nearly enough to make a dent:
According to one estimate, nearly a third of fishing lines
are lost or discarded at sea. This so-called "ghost gear"
— along with lost nets and traps — is deadly for marine animals: Experts estimate that more than 300,000 whales and dolphins die each year after getting tangled in them.

With far more "ghost" nets than any one person can possibly handle, Ochoa created a course to teach recreational divers how to safely remove ghost gear from the sea.

Over the past five years, that course has certified nearly 100 divers in Panama, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Since then, Conservation International has partnered with the fashion brand H&M to expand the effort, training an additional 50 divers so far. Ochoa says he doesn't measure success by the amount of trash picked up, but rather by the number of divers who join his ranks.

"My hope is that more people understand that they don't have to be underwater removing gear," he said. "The root of the ghost gear crisis comes from the overexploitation of fish. If, as consumers, we respect seasonal fish and support sustainable sources, we can make a difference."







Scientific research, dedication and creativity are needed to save our ecosystem. This is only possible with strong collaborations between businesses, governments, educational institutions, civil society and individuals. As partner of choice, Conservation International is uniquely positioned to make a lasting impact for nature preservation and sustainability. I am honored to help guide their integrated and impactful solutions across Singapore and Asia-Pacific to bring social and economic benefits to the people of the region.



MICHELLE LIEM

Co-Chair, Asia-Pacific Advisory Council







# AN ANCIENT TRADITION IS SAVING AN AFRICAN GRASSLAND

FEW PLACES ON EARTH are as evocative as the grasslands of sub-Saharan Africa — nor host as much iconic wildlife.

Thanks to Conservation International, these places are being brought back to health.



In South Africa, people long raised livestock alongside wildlife, mimicking the rhythms of nature. But when apartheid arrived, centuries of traditional herding were disrupted when communities were forcibly displaced from their ancestral territories, reshaping their cultural identity and way of life.

Working alongside pastoral communities, our local affiliate, Conservation South Africa, is restoring these vital grasslands, in part by reinvigorating a herding approach that had been practiced here for thousands of years. This effort aims to protect more than 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) of land while establishing a replicable model to conserve grasslands throughout Africa.

Through the project, communal herders agree to move livestock periodically between different

pastures, allowing grazed lands to recover. In exchange, farmers receive incentives such as vaccinations for their cattle and opportunities to sell their cattle to prime buyers. This "conservation agreement" model — developed by Conservation International 20 years ago — is reaping benefits for herders: As a result of the project, livestock have more to eat and arrive at market healthier, fatter and much more likely to command a premium price.

"This is a way of doing things that honors the whole system — people, livestock, wildlife and plants all thriving together," said Julia Levin, who leads Conservation South Africa. "But it's important to remember that no one invented this model — this is simply what African pastoralism looks like in its most innate form."





THERE'S MUCH MORE TO THIS STORY

— READ IT HERE.

conservation.org/blog/can-an-ancienttradition-save-an-african-grassland

- Maliemiso Susan Bolofo has seen her livestock's health improve greatly since partnering with Conservation International.
- 3 Local farmers gather at a cattle auction held exclusively for conservation agreement holders.

When landowners rotate livestock between pastures, grazed lands can recover and regrow.

exclusively for conservation agreement holders.

## HOW A PREDATOR HELPED BRING ONE COMMUNITY BACK TO LIFE

WHEN A SMALL TOWN saw its livelihood drying up, it had a choice — find new ways to make money, or overcome its fears and enlist an unlikely ally: Crocodiles.



Crocodiles help
 maintain a healthy
 wetland habitat, creating
 conditions for species
 like shrimp to thrive.

An artisanal fisherman

2 An artisanal fisherman from Topón. The commu nity has experienced a dramatic drop in shrimp due to deforestation.



About a decade ago, the small fishing community of Topón in southern Mexico noticed that the shrimp on which its economy depended were dying off. It took time to determine that one of the factors behind the decrease in shrimp populations was the elimination of the estuary's native crocodiles, which were feared — and often hunted — by the community.

A project implemented by Conservation International and partners sought to change that.

Crocodiles are wetland engineers, said
Conservation International's Ramón Flores.
Their swimming movements stir up sediment,
aerating the water, improving oxygen levels
and keeping minerals and nutrients from
settling. "Without the crocodile, the wetland
ceases to exist," Flores said. "If you want
good fishing, crocodiles must be present.
Their decline is one of the main reasons that
shrimp numbers plummeted."

So the project hosted workshops that showed the community the critical role that crocodiles play in keeping the ecosystem healthy — and ensuring there is an abundance of shrimp to fish. The project also organized monitoring brigades to keep an eye on the species and measure progress — an eye-opening experience for the community, Flores said.

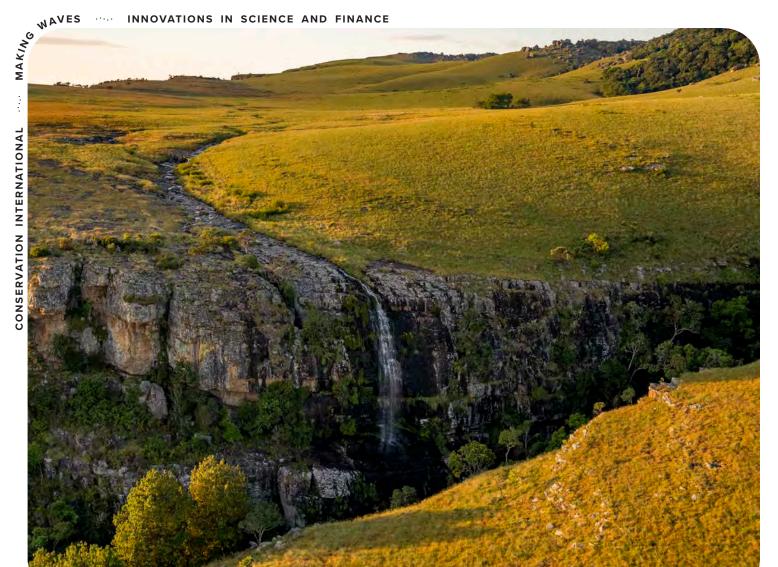
For the community, "witnessing the crocodile's life cycle play out in front of them had a profound and moving effect," he said.

As for shrimp, the fishermen's catch has increased tenfold since the project began more than five years ago. The local economy is also showing signs of improvement, notably for women and youth. With a new shrimp processing plant, the fishermen hope to connect directly to higher-value markets that support sustainable production.

"None of this would have been possible without taking this holistic and community-driven approach," Flores said. "These are essential pieces to long-term sustainability."

3





# TO RESTORE GRASSLANDS, IT'S TIME TO GET WILD

STRETCHING ACROSS 40 PERCENT of the planet, grasslands hold more than a third of the world's land-based carbon in their vast underground root and soil systems.



They are bastions of biodiversity and contribute to the livelihoods of a billion people worldwide. Yet in some cases, grasslands are disappearing faster than forests.

"Ironically, some grasslands are being threatened by inappropriate climate actions, like planting trees where they don't belong," said Conservation International scientist Heidi-Jayne Hawkins. "That's a problem for all grassy ecosystems — so, we asked, what can we do that's really a win for people, biodiversity and climate?"

According to a study co-led by Hawkins, one answer lies in bringing wildlife back to the grassy ecosystems they have helped shape for millennia — or at least mimicking the natural processes that keep grasslands in balance.

The study found that returning savannas to wilder states has clear benefits. Restoring populations of wild animals to historical levels keeps lands healthy. Healthier lands, in turn, are good for the climate and communities — including for ranchers' and farmers' livelihoods.

- In South Africa's Kruger to Canyons, Conservation International is helping herders revive ancient grazing practices that allow savannas to rest and recover.
- Over millions of years, Africa's grasslands co-evolved with the animals that graze them.
- 3 Guyana's Rupununi savannah is home to a wide variety of species, including the giant anteater.
- Herbivores like wildebeest graze together in tightly bunched herds, following seasonal rains in pursuit of fresh forage.



#### NEW STUDY LINKS BIRDS' DIETS TO FOREST HEALTH

WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY and far from home, you might find yourself being less picky about what you eat.



Not so for birds. The farther they are from the core of their habitats, the pickier they get, according to a first-of-its-kind study from Conservation International and others that investigated the feeding behavior of nearly 100 species.

Why it matters: Birds disperse the seeds of about 90 percent of all tropical plants.

The study found that birds' feeding preferences are highly connected to environmental stressors — and could have major impacts on ecosystems, says Conservation International climate expert Camila Donatti, a study co-author.

"In general, birds look for fruits that perfectly fit the size of their beak — so they can just grab and go," she said. "We thought that in the birds' core habitat, they would be choosier about the fruit they eat since there is a larger variety of it."

But Donatti and others found that birds at the edges of their habitats contend with different climate conditions, different predators or competition for resources. "Being at the outer limits of their habitats is stressful, so they have to be careful to eat the exact plants that give them the biggest return on investment," she said. "They get pickier because they don't have energy to waste."

This is significant because climate change and human activities are pushing bird species outside their range, creating a mismatch between the types of birds in a particular area and the food available to them.

"If these systems get out of balance, they won't function in the way we expect them to and provide the essential services we rely on, from food to clean water to climate regulation," Donatti said. "If we are going to protect that, we have to understand how it works."



- The great kiskadee's varied diet helps it thrive in many environments, from open grasslands to city parks.
- The sayaca tanager, a small and social songbird native to South America, is often seen in both cities and rural areas.
- Fruit- and seed-eating birds like toucans may become pickier in disturbed habitats.

#### NEW TECH KEEPS SHARKS AT BAY — SAFELY

IT'S OFTEN SAID that sharks have more to fear from humans than the other way around. This holds true even for the defenses humans use to protect themselves in some parts of the world.





Shark nets — submerged nets aimed at keeping sharks away from beachgoers — are not very effective and can be deadly for turtles and dolphins that get tangled in them.

Now, a South African company, SharkSafe Barriers, is pioneering a better way to protect surfers and swimmers without harming sharks or other marine wildlife. The company is supported by CI Ventures, an investment program that provides loans to small businesses that operate in areas where Conservation International works.

The company's barrier uses two methods to deter sharks: First, it mimics a thick kelp forest — which sharks naturally tend to avoid — using flexible pipes that move in the waves as kelp would. The second method: magnets placed inside the pipes. Sharks use electromagnetic receptors at the tip of their heads to navigate and hunt prey; the magnets in the pipes overwhelm them, causing a sensation similar to someone shining a flashlight directly in your eyes.

The company's main challenge is the cost of installing the barriers — so CI Ventures is providing a loan and a flexible line of credit to help SharkSafe Barriers get into the market.

"Our hope is that by making people feel safe," said Sara Andreotti, a marine biologist and chief operating officer of SharkSafe Barriers, "we can inspire them to want to protect the ocean, and all its creatures."

- During multiple tests, sharks have never crossed the barrier.
- SharkSafe Barriers mimics a kelp forest and uses powerful magnets to deter sharks.



#### IN KENYA, A GLOBAL CRISIS SPARKS A NEW ERA OF CONSERVATION

)1-03. Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya, © Jonathan Irish

ONE OF the most iconic landscapes in the world, Kenya's Maasai Mara, thrives thanks to tourism income.



When COVID halted global travel in 2020, communities in the region that lease their land to wildlife conservancies and tour companies weighed selling some of it, risking the habitats that sustain the very wildlife that draw tourists.

But from this crisis was born a new way of doing conservation.

In 2020, Conservation International and the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association launched the African Conservancies Fund — a rescue package to offset lost revenues for thousands in the area who rely on tourism income.

The conservancy model enables people living near national parks to combine their properties into large protected areas and earn income by leasing that land for safaris and lodges. Communities in Maasai Mara have now created 24 conservancies, protecting a total of 180,000 hectares (450,000 acres) — effectively doubling the total area of habitat for wildlife in the region.

But elsewhere in Africa, the conservancy model has remained out of reach.

"Conservancies have the potential to lift pastoral communities out of poverty in many African landscapes. But starting a conservancy requires significant funding — money they simply don't have," said Bjorn Stauch, who leads Conservation International's conservation finance division.

Now, Conservation International is finding a way for communities to start conservancies and strengthen existing ones. Over the next three years, the organization aims to invest millions of dollars in new and emerging conservancies across southern and eastern Africa.

Loans issued by the fund — now called the African Conservancies Facility — will be repaid through tourism leases, jumpstarting new conservancies and reinforcing those already in place.

- Many of the new and emerging community conservancies have been carefully chosen as key wildlife corridors for species like elephants.
- 2 A starling takes flight in the grasslands of Maasai Mara.
- 3 Tourists from around the world visit Kenya's conservancies to see wildlife like hippos in their natural habitat.

Our ties to Conservation International run deep. From my father, Henry, to our children, Julia and Paul, for nearly 40 years we have supported Conservation International in a belief that nature, and its protection, is central to providing economic security to communities and nations around the world. By working in solidarity with Indigenous and local communities to protect the nature that sustains us, we are hopeful of a peaceful, prosperous and thriving future.



JOHN AND
JODY ARNHOLD

Conservation International Board Member and founders of the Arnhold Distinguished Fellows program at Conservation International



#### REIMAGINING CONSERVATION

To make conservation work for all, it must be more compassionate, conscious and inclusive. It must also continue to embrace and elevate the voices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, whose expertise and knowledge of the land and

waters they steward is critical to addressing the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Here are some success stories from the past year about how Conservation International is helping to reimagine conservation to be more inclusive.



#### **FASHIONING A NEW APPROACH** TO INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS

A NEWLY LAUNCHED set of principles is showing the fashion industry how to meaningfully work with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Some 370 million Indigenous people are spread around the world, their lands home to a great deal of the raw materials sought by fashion designers — from wool to leather and more. Yet Indigenous communities have typically lacked representation in corporate sustainability, fashion and business.

The result: Indigenous and local knowledge not included in corporate sustainability strategies. Indigenous intellectual property not respected. And the fashion industry's impact on Indigenous Peoples and nature is generally overlooked.

"A lot of companies don't actually know where to even begin to engage with Indigenous Peoples," said Quinn Manson Buchwald, a citizen of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana and the Manitoba Métis Federation, and director of the Indigenous and Traditional Peoples program at Conservation International.

So Buchwald and colleagues at Conservation International — informed by Indigenous people and local communities and in partnership with

Textile Exchange, an industry group — set out to establish some fundamentals: How should companies engage with Indigenous communities?

Many of the principles in the guidelines — about consent, collaboration and acknowledging impacts — are intuitive, while others illustrate just how unique some of the gaps are.

Observers say that the principles have come at a critical time.

"The fashion industry is starting to understand its impact on nature and biodiversity," said Virginia Borcherdt, senior director for sustainable fashion at Conservation International, who with Buchwald helped drive the creation of the principles. "So it makes sense that as they start implementing these sustainability strategies that they recognize that Indigenous Peoples are these stewards of biodiversity."

- A traditional weaver near Reserva Comunal Machiguenga, Peru.
- Textile weaving has been a cornerstone of Peruvian culture for thousands of years, with techniques and patterns passed down through generations.



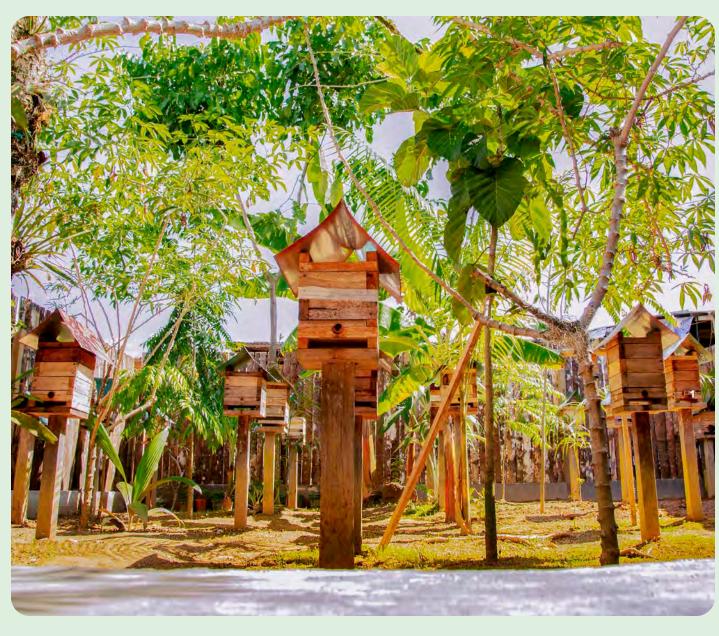
#### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES HERE.

conservation.org/blog/for-fashion-industry-newmodel-for-working-with-indigenous-peoples





## REIMAGINING CONSERVATION



## FOR THESE COMMUNITIES, SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS IS BUZZING

BEES ARE nature's "essential workers" — one-third of the world's crops rely on pollinators to reproduce.





Around the world, Conservation International is investing in women beekeepers who are helping bees withstand the effects of pesticides, climate change and shrinking habitats. The bees, in turn, provide honey — an important source of food and income, which in many cases generates economic independence and autonomy for women in places where there are few other opportunities.

In Colombia, for example, Patricia Rodríguez is benefiting from a Conservation International project that helps Colombia's highland communities adapt to climate change by promoting sustainable livelihoods.

"It's hard work, but I just fell in love with them," she said. "The beehives remind me of our women's group: Every woman plays an important role in our collective success. We're smart and we work hard, just like bees in a hive."

Rodríguez uses honey and pollen from her 10 hives to sweeten and fortify the yogurt she makes on her dairy farm. And selling her honey has helped compensate for a drop in milk production as a recent drought, spurred by climate change and last year's El Nino weather cycle, withered her dairy cows' oncelush pastures.

Importantly, she says, the bees are helping to protect this delicate ecosystem. "In the past three years, I've seen how our bees are improving the pastures — they grow more quickly," Rodríguez said.

"The bees are part of my family now," she added.
"I understand them, and they take care of us."

- 1 These beehives, tended by Indigenous women in Colombia, house Melipona bees — a native, stingless variety.
- 2 Patricia Rodríguez says beekeeping has fortified her livelihood as a dairy farmer in Colombia's highlands.
- Women beekeepers tend to a hive.

63

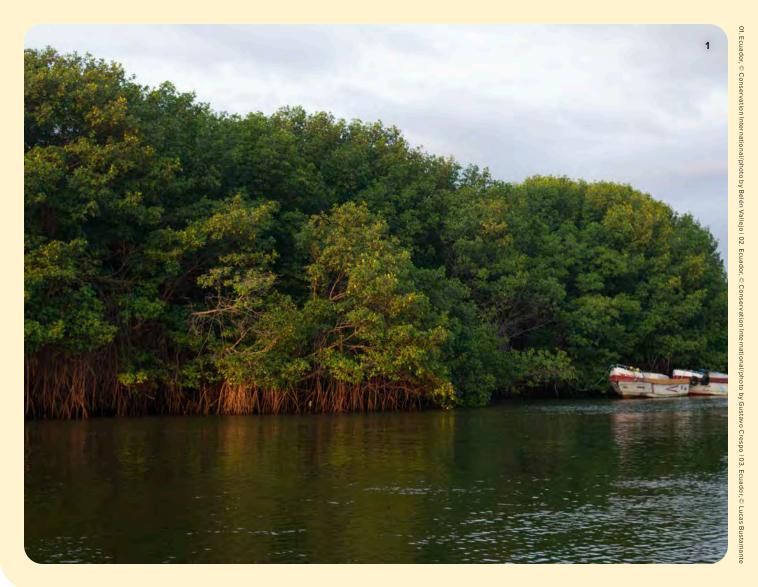
ے '





# IN ECUADOR, A 'MILESTONE' EFFORT TO PROTECT MANGROVES — AND PEOPLE

TYPICALLY UNDERAPPRECIATED, mangroves are having a moment: A recently launched US\$ 45.9 million project aims to give Ecuador's degraded mangroves a new lease on life.



The six-year project to protect and restore mangroves in the South American country will be financed by the Green Climate Fund and led by Conservation International-Ecuador, in collaboration with the Ecuadorian government.

Hugging coastlines throughout the tropics, mangroves capture and store massive amounts of carbon: A single square mile of mangroves can stash away as much carbon as the annual emissions of 90,000 cars. In addition, mangroves act as natural coastal buffers and can help communities become more resilient to sea-level rise.

Yet mangroves have seen a significant decline

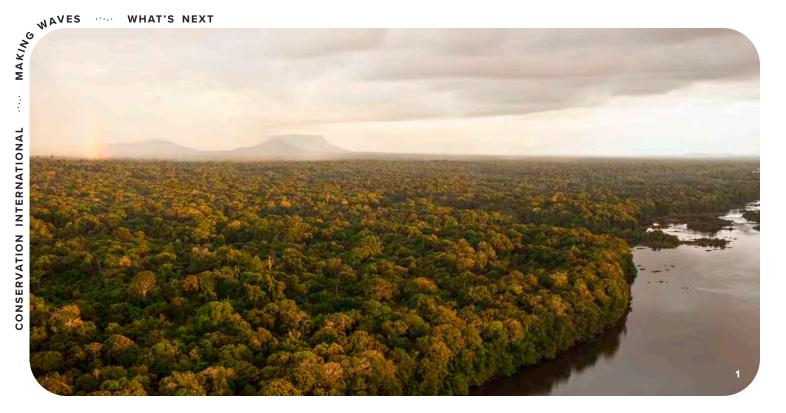
— Ecuador alone has lost nearly a quarter of
its mangroves since 1969, leaving its coasts
highly vulnerable to extreme weather and
coastal erosion.

By protecting and restoring mangroves, the new project will sequester nearly 5 million metric tons of greenhouse gases over 20 years, equivalent to removing 1.2 million gas-powered cars from the road. It will also restore critical habitats for marine species that coastal communities rely on for their livelihoods.

"This project marks a milestone in our efforts to combat climate change and protect the country's marine and coastal biodiversity," said Conservation International's Montserrat Albán, who leads climate work in Ecuador. "We have been protecting the country's mangroves for many years, but this is the first time we are doing so through the lens of helping communities adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis."



6



# SMALL COUNTRY MAKES A GIANT LEAP FOR NATURE

SOME 85 PERCENT of Guyana is covered in forest, the second-highest percentage of forest cover of any country.

At the same time, with the 2015 discovery and subsequent extraction of oil off its coast, Guyana is now the world's fastest-growing economy.

Can this small South American country strike a balance between conservation and resource extraction?

It is aiming to: Last year, the Guyanese government vowed to protect its most critical ecosystems, announcing that the country would double its protected areas within the next 18 months. The announcement is part of a "longstanding commitment" by the government to expand protected areas as part of Guyana's low-carbon development trajectory, according to Curtis Bernard, who leads Conservation International's work in the country.

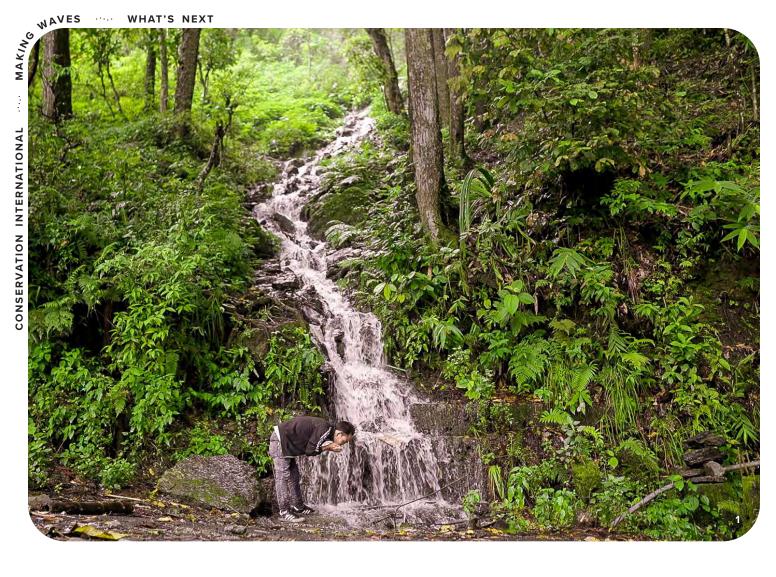
To support this goal, the government launched a new research and education center last year to help protect the country's biodiversity and study the health of its ecosystems. The center — supported by Conservation International — aims to "focus research on answering the kinds of questions that are needed to support Guyana's sustainable economic transformation with nature," Bernard said.

- The Essequibo River serves as a vital waterway for both wildlife and communities in Guyana.
- In Guyana, where nearly 90 percent of the population lives along the coast, mangroves protect the shoreline and support health, tourism and food security.
- 3 Protected areas like the lwokrama Reserve offer crucial habitat for tree frogs.
- Mangroves are integral to daily life for locals like Jessica Higgins.





/ 1







To protect the nature these communities rely on, Conservation International teamed up with a raft of local groups to launch "Mountains to Mangroves" — an initiative designed to align and accelerate conservation efforts across some of the most rugged and mountainous regions on Earth. Together, the partnership will protect and restore 1 million hectares (2.5 million acres) across Bhutan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

While these groups have made progress in reforestation and wildlife protection, the challenges facing the region demand a larger, more unified effort, says Saurav Malhotra, Conservation International's lead in the region. Mountains to Mangroves brings these efforts together under a shared vision to protect the entire region.

"This is a whole-ecosystem approach," he said.
"Through this partnership, we are aligning global fundraising, scientific research, communications and financial strategies to establish the largest conservation program in South Asia."

# THE RACE IS ON TO REVIVE THE HIMALAYAS

# MASSIVE CHANGE is sweeping through the Eastern Himalayas.

The region, home to roughly 12 percent of the world's biodiversity and 1 billion people, is one of the fastest-warming places on Earth due to climate change. As glaciers recede and monsoon seasons shift, some rivers are drying up while others face more frequent and severe floods. Meanwhile, 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres) is lost to deforestation each year. For the people who live here, these changes are devastating — threatening their farms, fisheries and access to clean water, leaving their way of life hanging in the balance.

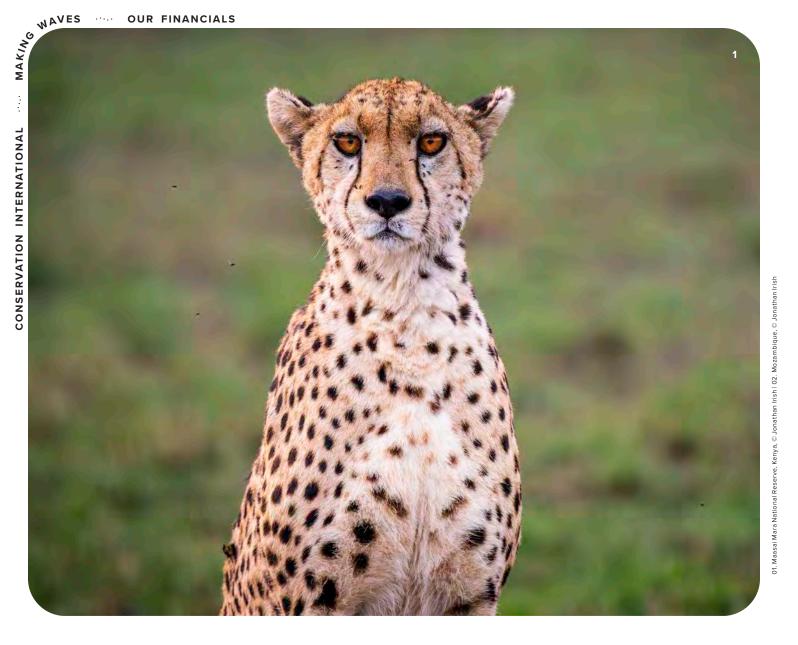


- 1 Life in the Eastern Himalayas follows the ebb and flow of rivers.
- 2 The initiative harnesses the collective power and resilience of local communities in the Eastern Himalayas.
- 3 Rhesus macaques, with the widest geographic range of any non-human primate, can be found in habitats ranging from mountains to mangroves in the Eastern Himalayas.
- By planting fruit trees and nitrogen-fixing plants alongside traditional crops, communities are enhancing soil fertility and reducing erosion.

<sup>\*</sup>3







# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

AS WE ENTER more turbulent financial times, we thank you for your continued generosity over the past year. Your support has enabled Conservation International to achieve significant milestones in our journey to secure a healthy, vibrant planet that will sustain us well into the future.

# REVENUE

Revenue increased by over 14% to \$282 million in FY24. We are fortunate to be supported by a diverse portfolio of donors including foundation, public, individual and corporate sources. This ensures our resilience in times of economic challenge and shifting global priorities. Strong markets in FY24 resulted in notable investment gains that will support our programs over the coming years.



# 

Conservation International relies on the generosity of our supporters to implement our work. Careful planning and stewardship of these funds have enabled us to close the year with record accomplishments — both financially and programmatically.

Our FY24 financial results reflect record expenditures totaling \$297 million. This represents a 20% increase over FY23 levels, mainly in programmatic investments. Consistent with recent years and with our commitment to efficiently steward donor funds, program service expenses increased by 21% while our supporting services costs grew by a more modest 13%.

The Field Programs and Center for Oceans Division continue to comprise most of our programmatic investment, with expenses totaling \$154 million or 52% of total costs. During FY24, our teams made great progress protecting and restoring natural ecosystems through large restoration projects in the Americas and Asia, through grasslands restoration programs in Africa, by protecting "irrecoverable carbon" reserves, and by developing financing mechanisms that generate economic benefits through conservation. We are advising on over \$1.2 billion in private-sector funds that will protect nature. Our Oceans team made progress towards our goal of doubling the area of ocean under protection, with active engagements spanning 21.9 million square kilometers and new or improved protections realized for over 2.7 million kilometers of ocean to date.

Working with partners is a pillar of our conservation strategy. By supporting partners on the ground, we help to build lasting capacity and expertise in areas with the highest conservation value. Our grantmaking divisions provided almost \$52 million in support to partners in the field.

To maximize our conservation impact, we channel most of our funding to programmatic needs. However, investing in fundraising and operations is critical to ensuring our programs are supported financially and operationally. It also helps us to steward the funding entrusted to us by our donors. In FY24, although we modestly increased our investment in supporting services by \$4 million, our overhead rate fell by a percentage point to 13%. This compares favorably to industry standards. We are proud to consistently earn the highest rankings from charitable watch groups such as Charity Navigator.

We closed the year with an overall decrease in net assets of \$16 million, composed of a modest operating surplus of \$3 million and a decrease in net assets with donor restrictions of \$19 million. The decrease in restricted net assets was driven by the release from restriction of multi-year restricted awards secured in prior fiscal years but deployed in FY24. Our operating surplus, or the increase in net assets without donor restrictions, was composed of \$2.8 million in endowment gains and \$662,000 related to operations.

'9

# OUR FINANCIALS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES In Thousands

SIAILIVILIAI			10	<i>-</i>			In T	housands
			2	2024			2	023
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	WITHOUT DONOR WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS RESTRICTIONS				TOTAL		TOTAL	
Grants and contributions:	KESTKIOT	10110	112	201110110110		TOTAL		TOTAL
Foundations	\$ 8	,235	\$	78,435	\$	86,670	\$	86,955
Public funding		1		67,525		67,526		57,656
Individuals	9	,256		25,830		35,086		22,488
Corporations		754		33,255		34,009		37,937
Other		10		4,101		4,111		4,783
Contributed nonfinancial assets		647		21		668		1,481
Cancellations and de-obligations		-		(4)		(4)		(55)
Investment income (loss), net	9	,248		22,607		31,855		18,005
Contract revenue	15	5,913		-		15,913		14,673
Other revenue	1	,024		5,028		6,052		2,797
Net assets released from donor restrictions	255,752		(255,752)		-		-	
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	300,	840		(18,954)		281,886		246,720
EXPENSES								
Program services:								
Field programs								
Americas	70	,232		-		70,232		59,385
Asia-Pacific	3	4,113		-		34,113		30,460
Africa	27	,095		-		27,095		21,565
Center for Oceans		2,744		-		22,744		20,860
Grantmaking divisions		,997		-		51,997		36,305
Global programs		,760		-		38,760		38,288
Other programs		,870		-		13,870		6,269
Total program services	258	3,811		-		258,811		213,132
Supporting services:								
Fundraising		2,616		-		22,616		20,249
Management and operations		,922		-		15,922		13,978
Total supporting services	38,	,538		-		38,538		34,227
TOTAL EXPENSES	297,	349		-		297,349		247,359
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER INCOME AND LOSSES	3,	,491		(18,954)		(15,463)		(639)
Other income and losses:								
(Loss) gain on translation of affiliate and field office net assets		-		(529)		(529)		122
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	3	,491		(19,483)		(15,992)		(517)

30,782

\$ 34,273 \$

401,997

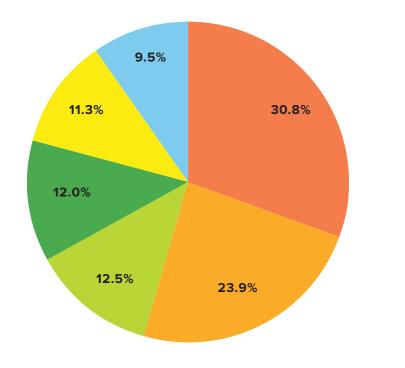
382,514 \$

432,779

416,787

433,296 \$ 432,779

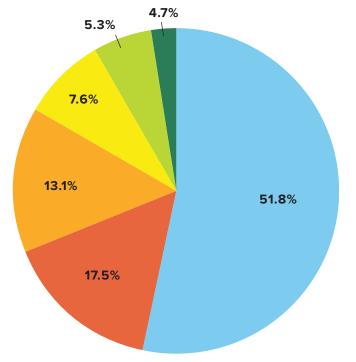
# **REVENUE AND EXPENSES**



# **REVENUE**

In the fiscal year 2024, Conservation International raised a total of US\$ 281.9 million in revenue from deeply committed supporters from around the globe.

•	Foundations	\$86.7M
•	Public funding	\$67.5M
<b>•</b>	Individuals	\$35.1M
<b>•</b>	Corporations	\$34.0M
<b>&gt;</b>	Investment	\$31.9M
•	Other income	\$26.7M
		\$281.9M



# **EXPENSES**

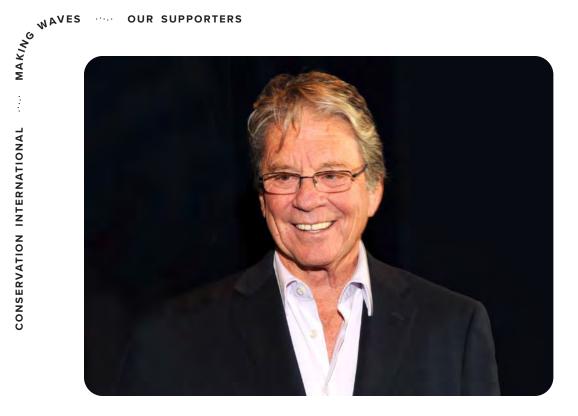
**Conservation International closed fiscal** year 2024 with expenses totaling US\$ 297.3 million.

•	Field Programs Americas Asia-Pacific Africa Center for Oceans	\$70.2M \$34.1M \$27.1M \$22.7M
	Grantmaking divisions	\$52.0M
•	Global programs	\$38.8M
<b>&gt;</b>	Fundraising	\$22.6M
•	Management and operations	\$15.9M
•	Other programs	\$13.9M
		\$297.3N

**NET ASSETS** Beginning

Ending





# IN MEMORIAM **RAY THURSTON**

In October, Conservation International lost a dear friend and emeritus member of our board, Ray Thurston.

A long-time visionary leader and hands-on member of our board from 1999 to 2013, Ray played a key role in the emergence of United Parcel Service (UPS) as a world-class logistics leader. Through his generosity and a deep commitment to follow through and results, Ray was instrumental in guiding improvements to Conservation International's efficiency in operations and programmatic delivery.

Loved by Conservation International staff and respected by his peers on the board, Ray treasured traveling to multiple project sites with his wife Amy and their two boys.

"Ray cared deeply about Conservation International's people and our ability to grow and sustain our impact around the world" said Peter Seligmann, Conservation International co-founder and board chairman, who shared in Ray's joy for living in Jackson, Wyoming. "It would be safe to say that he compelled a new vision and discipline that allowed for our future growth, delivery and impact. And, when times got tough, Ray always had our backs and lifted our spirits with friendship and humor."

We are forever grateful to Ray, and he will be deeply missed by all of us.

# REGIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC **BOARDS AND COUNCILS**

**AMERICAS COUNCIL Steve Anderson** (Chairperson)

Ohio

Stefano Arnhold São Paulo, Brazil

Vivi Barguil de Sarmiento Bogotá, Colombia

Francisco Costa New York

Mark K. Gormley New York

Jose Koechlin Lima, Peru

Joel Korn Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Jorge Lopez-Doriga Lima, Peru

Pablo Gabriel Obregón Bogotá, Colombia

Jessica Sneider California

**ASIA PACIFIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

**Kevin Hardy (Chair)** 

Singapore

Singapore

Leo Tan Wee Hin

Lam Keong Yeoh Singapore

Richard Jeo Singapore

**AUSTRALIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*** 

Richard Jeo (Chair) Singapore

Philippa Walsh (Secretary) Katoomba, NSW, Australia

Kristofer Helgen Sydney, NSW, Australia

**Angus Holden** Sydney, NSW, Australia

Kim Lawrence Brisbane, QLD, Australia

**Roewen Wishart** Sydney, NSW, Australia

**BRAZIL ADVISORY** COUNCIL Stefano Arnhold (President)

São Paulo, Brazil

Andréa Aguiar Azevedo Rondonópolis, Brazil

Marcelo Britto São Paulo, Brazil

**Lilian Esteves** São Paulo, Brazil

Gilberto Gil Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Luis Justo** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Joel Korn Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Jairo Loureiro São Paulo, Brazil

Maitê Lourenço São Paulo, Brazil

**Helio Mattar** São Paulo, Brazil

**Eduardo Moura** São Paulo, Brazil

**Carlos Nobre** São Paulo, Brazil

Joyce Pascowitch São Paulo, Brazil

Francisco Piyãko Acre, Brazil

> Maitê Proença Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Marcelo Rocha São Paulo, Brazil

**BRAZIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*** 

**Iuri Rapoport (President)** São Paulo, Brazil

Francisco Barbosa Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Sergio Besserman Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rachel Biderman São Paulo, Brazil

> Irene Garay Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Carlos Klink Brasília, Federal District, Brazil

Philip O'Connor Missoula, Mont.

> Daniela Raik Arlington, Va.

**Robert Shevlin** 

Trancoso, Bahia, Brazil

Sebastian Troëng San José, Costa Rica

José Galizia Tundisi

São Carlos, São Paulo Brazil

**EUROPE ADVISORY** COUNCIL

**Annette Anthony** London, U.K.

Riccardo Bellini Paris, France

Marie-Claire Daveu Paris, France

François Delage Paris, France

Sabrina Elba London, U.K.

Cristina Gallach Barcelona, Spain

Will Gardiner London, U.K.

Ursula Heinen-Esser Cologne, Germany

Nick Kukrika London, U.K.

Stéphane Kurgan London, U.K.

Kim-Andrée Potvin Geneva, Switzerland

M. Sanjayan Arlington, Va.

23VAW

# **REGIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC BOARDS AND COUNCILS** CONTINUED

**Nick Southgate** 

London, U.K.

Silke Stremlau Hanover, Germany

**Claire Tutenuit** 

Paris, France

**Ulrich Wilheim** Berlin, Germany

Ella Windsor London, U.K.

Grace Yu London, U.K.

**GUYANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*** 

**Curtis Bernard** Georgetown, Guyana

**Rachel Biderman** 

Brazil

Lisa Famolare Arlington, Va.

**Andrew Pollard** 

Georgetown, Guyana

Daniela Raik Arlington, Va.

**KONSERVASI INDONESIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*** 

Jatna Supriatna (Chair) Jakarta, Indonesia

Tan Enk Ee Singapore

**Richard Jeo** Singapore

Daniela Raik Arlington, Va.

**KONSERVASI INDONESIA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT** 

Meizani Irmadhiany Jakarta, Indonesia

Riza Boris Sobari Jakarta, Indonesia

Fitri Yanti Hasibuan Medan, Indonesia

**KONSERVASI INDONESIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

**Debby Ferdiany** 

Jakarta, Indonesia

**CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*** 

Simon Susman (Chair) Cape Town, South Africa

**Owen Henderson** 

Greyton, South Africa

Dr. Reuel Khoza Johannesburg, South Africa

Julia Levin

Johannesburg, South Africa

Loyiso Pityana-Ndlovu Johannesburg, South Africa M. Sanjayan Arlington, Va.

Lee Gillespie White Arlington, Va.

CI SCIENCE COUNCIL Steve Bell (Chair)

Estes Park, Colo.

**Mohamed Bakarr** 

Washington, District of Columbia

Lyda Hill

Dallas, Texas

**Peter Kareiva** Los Angeles, Calif.

Aileen Lee Palo Alto, Calif.

Yuta Masuda

Seattle, Wash.

Rebecca Moore Mountain View, Calif.

**Hugh Possingham** 

Brisbane, Australia

Peter Schlosser Tempe, Ariz.

Tiburon, Calif.

Jorgen Thomsen Chicago, III.

Katie Vogelheim

**Nick Southgate** London, U.K.

> Ella Windsor London, U.K.

**CONSERVATION** 

**INTERNATIONAL** 

**CONSERVATION TRUST\*** 

Yeoh Lam Keong (Chair)

Meizani Irmadhiany

Chen Chen Lee

**SINGAPORE** 

**TRUSTEES** 

Singapore

Byron Askin

Singapore

Indonesia

Singapore

Wei Wei Lim

Kathlyn Tan

U.K. BOARD\*

Sabrina Elba

London, U.K.

Nick Kukrika

London, U.K.

Mike Rands

M. Sanjayan

Arlington, Va.

Cambridge, U.K

Simon Lyster (Chair)

Singapore

U.K.

Singapore

\*Our Annual Report highlights the contributions of volunteers external to Conservation International who serve on our Boards and Councils; as such, Boards and Councils comprising solely Conservation International staff are not listed.

# **DISTINGUISHED AND SENIOR FELLOWS**

As of February 1, 2024

**ARNHOLD DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS** 

**Dame Jacinda Ardern** 

Aotearoa

Monica Medina **United States** 

Dr. Johan Rockström

Germany

**LUI-WALTON SENIOR FELLOWS** 

**Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim** 

Chad

Dr. Günther Bachmann

Germany

Carlos Eduardo Correa Escaf

Colombia

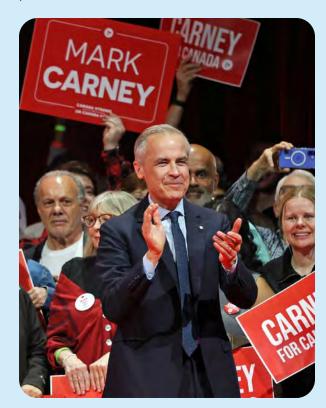
Greta Francesca Iori

Ethiopia

THE ARNHOLD DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, launched in 2018 to honor former Conservation International board member Henry Arnhold, offers select world leaders a platform to advocate for policies and practices that benefit our mission. By enlisting visionary leaders to elevate climate and conservation dialogues to the highest levels of government, business and civil society, we create space for bold action to confront the most pressing challenges of our time.

Earlier this year, Mark Carney was elected Prime Minister of Canada. Conservation International had the privilege of working with Mark in 2021 as an Arnhold Distinguished Fellow, where his commitment to integrating nature into global financial systems in the leadup to the Glasgow Climate COP26 and transition plans has been a source of vision and momentum.

Mark has long recognized what too many still overlook: that a thriving economy and a thriving planet are inseparable. His leadership on climate, nature, and sustainable finance has helped reshape global conversations — from boardrooms to biodiversity summits — and will now shape Canada's future at a pivotal time.



 $_{
m AVES}$ 

# SENIOR STAFF

As of February 1, 2025

## **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

# M. Sanjayan, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer

### Elise Larkin

Chief of Staff

# Kelly Thalman

Vice President, Strategic Engagements

# **FIELD PROGRAMS**

# Daniela Raik, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President. Field Programs

# Kelvin Alie

Senior Vice President. Strategy, Delivery and Field **Partnerships** 

# **Kavita Chambery**

Vice President, Project Delivery and Monitoring

# Jessica Leas

Vice President, Design, Project Delivery and Monitoring

# **AMERICAS FIELD DIVISION**

# Rachel Biderman, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President and Chief Field Officer, Americas

# Lisa Famolare

Americas Field Division Deputy Officer and Vice President Nature for Climate

# Fabio Arjona

Vice President, Conservation International-Colombia

# **Curtis Bernard**

Executive Director, Conservation International-Guyana

# **Mauricio Bianco**

Vice President, Conservation International-Brazil

# **Carmen Delgadillo**

Vice President, Operations Americas Field Division

# Luis Espinel

Vice President, Conservation International-Peru

# **Eduardo Forno**

Vice President, Conservation International-Bolivia

# **Gina Griffith**

Executive Director, Conservation

International-Suriname

# **Leticia Gutierrez**

Vice President, Conservation International-Mexico

# **Ana Guzman**

Executive Director. Conservation International-Costa Rica

# **Scott Henderson**

Managing Director, Galapagos Program

# Marco Quesada

Vice President, Oceans Americas Field Division

# Luis Suarez

Vice President, Conservation International-Ecuador

# **AFRICA FIELD DIVISION**

## **Jimmiel Mandima**

Chief Field Officer, Africa

### **Tim Bromfield**

Vice President, Africa

# Valentine Ebua

Managing Director, West & Central Africa

# Seif Hamisi

Managing Director, East Africa

# Julia Levin

Vice President, Southern Africa

Angola

Maria Loa Project Executive Director,

# Bruno Rajaspera

Country Director, Conservation International-Madagascar

# **ASIA-PACIFIC FIELD DIVISION**

Asia-Pacific

Richard Jeo, Ph.D. Senior Vice President and Chief Field Officer.

# Meizani Irmadhiany

Senior Vice President and Executive Chair of Konservasi Indonesia

# **Robert Baigrie**

Vice President, Climate Finance, Asia-Pacific Field Division

# Wilson John Barbon

Country Executive Director, Conservation International-Philippines

# **Geraldine Chin**

Country Director, Conservation International-Singapore

# Mark Erdmann

Vice President, Marine, Asia-Pacific Field Division

# **Debby Ferdiany**

Vice President, Operations, Asia-Pacific Field Division

# Fitri Hasibuan

Vice President, Indonesia Program

Tarita Holm Conservation Partnership Director, Conservation

International-Palau

# **Amelia Juhl**

Country Director, Conservation International-Japan

# Mere Lakeba

Managing Director Pacific Environment Impact, Conservation International-Fiji

# Xiaohai Liu

Executive Director, Conservation International-China

## Manuel Mendes

Country Director, Conservation International-Timor-Leste

# Sony Oum

Country Director, Conservation International-Cambodia

# **Ketut Putra**

Asia Transboundary Oceans Senior Advisor

# Virginia Simpson

Senior Country Manager, Australia

## Susana

# Wagainabete-Tuisese

Vice President, Pacific Region

Janice-Renee Yoshioka Vice President, Sustainable Finance, Asia-Pacific Field

# **CENTER FOR OCEANS** Ashleigh McGovern

Division

Senior Vice President. Center for Oceans

# Laure Katz

Vice President, Blue Nature

## Emily Pidgeon, Ph.D.

Vice President, Ocean Science and Innovation

# **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

# Francisco Souza, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President, Indigenous People and Local Communities

# Johnson Cerda

Vice President, IPLC **Engagement and** Partnerships

# THE BETTY AND **GORDON MOORE CENTER FOR SCIENCE**

Johan Rockström, Ph.D. Chief Scientist

# Stephanie Wear, Ph.D.

Center for Science

Senior Vice President, Moore

David Hole, Ph.D. Vice President, Global

# Solutions

Impact

Alex Zvoleff Vice President, Science for

# **BRAND AND**

Communications &

Marketing Officer

# **COMMUNICATIONS**

Miro Korenha **Acting Chief** 

Jenny Parker Vice President, Media

# **BRAND PARTNERSHIPS**

# **Jamie Cross**

Vice President, Brand **Partnerships** 

# **CENTER FOR NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

# Will Turner, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President, Nature Climate Solutions

# **Bronson Griscom**

Vice President, Natural Climate Solutions

# Jen Howard

Vice President, Blue Carbon Program

# John Lotspeich Vice President, Restoration

# **Emily Nyrop**

Vice President, Climate Change

# **Guy Pinjuy**

Senior Technical Advisor

# **CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE**

# **PRODUCTION**

Jack Kittinger, Ph.D. Senior Vice President, Center for Sustainable

# Production

**Bambi Semroc** Senior Vice President, Food and Agriculture and Deputy Senior Vice President Center for

Regenerative Economies

John Buchanan

Vice President, Sustainable Production

# **COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS**

# **PARTNERSHIP** Kristen Walker Painemilla

Senior Vice President and Managing Director, Community-led Solutions Partnership

# Luis Barquin

Vice President, Communities and Innovation

# PEOPLE AND CULTURE

# Francesca Cantarella

Deputy Chief People and Culture Officer

# **Gray Chesson**

Vice President, Global **Human Resources** 

## Wanjiru Gathira

Vice President, GEDI

# **NATURE FINANCE DIVISION**

# **Deborah Spalding**

Global Head, Nature Finance

**Bjorn Stauch** Senior Vice President,

# Nature Finance

Nikola Alexandre Vice President, Nature Fund

Romas Garbaliauskas Vice President, Innovative

# Finance

Advisory

Jana Lessenich Vice President, Sustainable

# **Judith Reves**

Finance

Vice President, CFD Legal

# **Chris Stone**

Vice President, Long-Term Finance

# **Chris Zink**

Vice President, Carbon Finance

# **CONSERVATION**

# **PARTNERSHIPS** Sebastian Troëng, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President. **Conservation Partnerships** and Chief People & Culture Office

# CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM **PARTNERSHIP FUND (CEPF)**

## **Jack Tordoff**

Vice President, CEPF

**Olivier Langrand** 

Executive Director, CEPF

90

# SENIOR STAFF CONTINUED

# **DEVELOPMENT**

# **Cynthia Tapley**

Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer

# Cynthia McKee

Senior Vice President, Leadership Gifts

# **Judy Agnew**

Vice President, Philanthropy

## **Erin Carmany**

Vice President, Development and Campaign Director

# Julie Upham

Vice President, Individual Giving

# **EUROPE AND GLOBAL PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS**

# **Herbert Lust**

Managing Director, CI-Europe and Senior Vice President, Global Public **Partnerships** 

# Jonathan Hall

Vice President, CI United Kingdom

## Naomi Kingston

Vice President, European Partnerships and Strategy

# Jean-Denis Langlois

Vice President, People & Operations

# **Wendy Mathia**

Vice President, Grants Management & Delivery

## **Amanda Sennert**

Vice President, Outreach and Partnership Development

# FINANCE, AWARD **MANAGEMENT**

# + GRANTS AND **CONTRACTS**

# **Barbara DiPietro**

Chief Financial Officer

# Lisa Mangkonkarn

**Deputy Chief Financial** Officer

# Lea Blubaugh

Vice President, External **Grants and Contracts** 

# **Matthew Wooliever**

Vice President, Financial Information Management and Services

# **GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE**

# **Rick Nash**

General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer

# **Patricia Petty**

Vice President, Legal

# **GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY PROJECT**

# **AGENCY Orissa Samaroo**

Vice President, CI-GEF Agency

## Free de Koning

Vice President, Project Development and Impact, CI-GEF Project Agency

# Susana Escudero

Vice President, Grants Management

# **GREEN CLIMATE FUND IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

# Steven Panfil, Ph.D.

Vice President, CI-GCF Agency

# **GLOBAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

## Sally Lehnhardt

Chief Information and **Technology Officer** 

# **Julie Siron**

Vice President, IT Business Solutions

# **GLOBAL OPERATIONS**

# **Julius Court**

Chief Operating Officer

# Jennifer Probst

Vice President, Global **Operations Strategy** and Policies

# **GLOBAL POLICY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

# Lina Barrera

Senior Vice President, Global Policy and Government Affairs

# Pasha Majdi

Vice President, US Government Policy and Strategy

# **STRATEGY**

# Patricia Zurita

Chief Strategy Officer and **Executive Vice President of Global Programs** 

## Jos Williams

Vice President, Finance and Operations

# YOU POWER OUR MISSION



OUR SUPPORTERS ENABLE US to dream big, move with speed, and turn ideas into action. You make all of our work possible. Learn more about all the ways you can support Conservation International at conservation.org/act. Thank you.

# CONSERVATION.ORG/ACT

# WAYS TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Make a one-time contribution

Become a monthly supporter

Join the Emerald Circle and Azure Circle of annual givers

Honor friends, family or loved ones with a gift in their name

Include Conservation International in your estate plans and join the Future of Life Society

Donate stocks, bonds or mutual funds

Give through a donor-advised fund

Give a qualified charitable distribution through your Individual Retirement Account if you are over age 70½

Give through your workplace

Fundraise for Conservation International through your own event or activity

# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

To minimize its environmental impact, this book was printed in the USA using a 100% postconsumer recycled paper stock. Compared with using a conventional paper made from virgin fiber, the following resources are saved.

Environmental Impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator Version 4.0. For more information visit www.papercalculator.org

9,000

27 AVERAGE-SIZE TREES

2,200 **GALLONS OF WATER** 

POUNDS OF SOLID WASTE

MILLION BTUS ENERGY

11,630 POUNDS OF CO2 EMISSIONS

© 2025 CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT DESIGN THE OFFICE OF ORDINARY THINGS

