



A STRATEGIC COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE GREEN-GRAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Since 2015, Conservation International (CI) and Bechtel have partnered to build resilience for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. The innovative green-gray infrastructure approach combines conservation and/or restoration of ecosystems with the selective use of conventional engineering to provide people with solutions that deliver climate change resilience and adaptation benefits.

This unique partnership of a major environmental organization with an industry leader in engineering and construction - supported by multiple public and private funders, governments, and communities - is an innovative approach to tackle the challenge of disaster risk management in the most vulnerable places on our planet.

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL - BECHTEL COLLABORATION



What is Green-Gray Infrastructure?

By blending “green” conservation with “gray” engineering techniques, communities can incorporate the benefits of both solutions while, through a hybrid approach, minimizing the limitations of using either green or gray infrastructure individually. The green-gray infrastructure design approach can apply in coastal, freshwater, and terrestrial settings. For example, in the central Philippines mangroves are essential for fisheries and livelihoods. By conserving coral reefs, restoring mangroves and installing breakwaters, the environment and nearby communities become more adaptable and resilient than if either technique is applied alone.

Project Construction in Iloilo, Philippines

Conservation International (CI), with technical support from bechtel.org, Bechtel’s social enterprise, is installing green-gray infrastructure for coastal protection at two highly vulnerable sites in the Province of Iloilo, Philippines. These communities suffered severe impacts during Typhoon Haiyan and other storms and their isolation makes extensive engineering solutions (such as seawalls) economically and socially unviable. **These communities are also highly dependent on mangroves and related ecosystems for their livelihoods.** Given these conditions, green-gray solutions for climate resilience are particularly well-suited and essential for the sustainability of these communities.

New Green-Gray Project Concepts

The CI-Philippines team has identified five new sites for green-gray infrastructure in Northern Iloilo, the highest priority of these five sites is in the municipality of Carles on the Northern and Southern islands of Gigantes. The islands are vulnerable to storm surges and sea level rise, in addition to having a limited fresh water supply. **We are seeking funding to install innovative green-gray infrastructure projects** to build the resilience of these communities to climate change impacts and demonstrate the effectiveness of green-gray solutions. The green-gray infrastructure strategies will be community-led and the designs developed with communities and Bechtel.org.

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