

**THE
TIME
IS
NOW**





SCARCITY

An aerial photograph of a wide river flowing through a vast, dense tropical forest. The river is a deep blue-grey color, contrasting with the lush green canopy of the forest. A small boat is visible on the river, leaving a white wake. The forest is composed of a thick layer of trees with varying shades of green, indicating a healthy, undisturbed ecosystem.

ABUNDANCE

ESSEQUIBO RIVER, GUYANA, © PETE OXFORD/ILCP



THREAT

NAIROBI, KENYA, © ALISSA EVERETT/LAMY STOCK PHOTO



SECURITY

A full-page underwater photograph. In the upper half, a diver in a dark wetsuit and blue fins swims away from the camera towards the surface. The water is a deep, clear blue. In the lower half, the seabed is covered with a dense, chaotic field of broken, white, and yellowish coral fragments, indicating severe reef degradation. The word "DEGRADATION" is printed in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the coral field.

DEGRADATION



PRESERVATION

RAJA AMPAT WEST PAPUA, INDONESIA © BURT JONES AND MAURINE SHIMLOCK



OVEREXPLOITED

THAILAND, © SITTICHAJ JITTATAD/ABOUT RIGHTS PROMOTION NETWORK



PROTECTED

At Conservation International, we are proud to have some of the leading minds in natural and social science, policy, finance and business working together to design solutions that will improve people's lives through the care and protection of nature. Their insights are helping societies develop and thrive in a more sustainable, equitable way.

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A full-page background image showing two elephants in a savanna landscape. The elephant on the right is in the foreground, facing the viewer, with its trunk hanging down. The elephant on the left is slightly behind and to the side, also facing the viewer. The ground is covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

WE NEED NATURE TO SURVIVE, TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS HAVE A THRIVING PLANET TO LIVE ON.

In order to do this,
we must eradicate
apathy, and replace it with
empathy and activation
to revolutionize the way
we approach political, social
and environmental divisions.

—
**SHAILENE WOODLEY,
CONSERVATIONIST**

KIEWEZI, KENYA, © CHARLIE SHOEMAKER

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*As of July 1, 2017



CHYULU HILLS, KENYA, © CHARLIE SHOEMAKER

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Members of Conservation International's Leadership Council are dedicated to furthering CI's mission through community connections, professional expertise and skills, and financial support.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Since our beginning, in 1987, Conservation International has worked with partners to protect more than 1.5 billion acres of the most critical landscapes and seascapes around the world — equivalent to two-thirds of the United States. It is an impact visible from space. And it has changed the trajectory of global conservation and positively impacted the lives of millions of people in over 30 countries.

Yet we need only to glance at the headlines to be reminded of how incomplete our work remains. In 2017, we saw historic storms in the United States and the Caribbean, catastrophic wildfires in California, deadly flooding in West Africa and Southeast Asia. Ireland was hit with a hurricane, London with a dust storm. And as I write this, Cape Town, South Africa, is on a fateful countdown to “Zero Water Day,” when the city’s water taps will run dry.

Meanwhile, protections for some of our most cherished lands and waters are being chipped away, both in the U.S. and abroad. Research by our scientists shows nearly 800 instances where protected areas and national parks were downgraded or delisted in recent years. We’ve seen shortsighted decisions on everything from the ivory trade to climate change.

In my 30 years of leading Conservation International, the need for our work has never been more critical than right now. Despite all of this, I remain incredibly optimistic about the future, and I can see wonderful signs that we may be winning.

Never before have so many people from so many corners of our world come together to protect the planet. In the South Pacific, island leaders are stepping up to establish vast marine protected areas. In Colombia, President Juan Manuel Santos has made protecting nature a signature focus in his country’s peace process.

In Africa, elephant numbers are showing signs of recovery, with a steep decline in poaching in hard-hit countries like Kenya, and 13 countries have now signed on to the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa — meaning that conservation and natural capital will be at the heart of their development plans moving forward.

Even as the U.S. ceded its leadership in the climate arena, civil society and businesses stepped up and said “we are still in.” China has moved faster to reduce carbon emissions and is integrating the concept of “eco-civilization” into a central tenet of the country’s growth. And global companies have stepped up to lead on these issues, seeing a new business imperative to act.

These examples are not isolated but rather make up an ever-accelerating, global movement to protect nature. This past year, Conservation International has worked to support this new momentum — all while launching the second generation of our organization, with a new executive leadership team ably taking the reins. This all makes me optimistic for a future where people and nature thrive together.

Conservation International is as strong today as it has ever been, because of our people — those who work here and those who show up and support our mission in so many ways. Thank you for your commitment to our mission of protecting nature for people everywhere. I cannot wait to see what 2018 holds for us.

PETER SELIGMANN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



DEAR FRIENDS,

On a calm shoreline, a person can see 5 kilometers before the horizon falls behind the curve of the Earth. As long as we have been an upright hominid, we have sought high places—the mast of a ship or the mountaintop, to glimpse the future and spot opportunities and threats. Now in a single generation, our generation, we can take in the entire planet all at once.

We can with confidence predict the future of the natural world and see the whole. We can measure with great precision changes in land cover, time the melting of glaciers, or mark the rise of the sea. This is a remarkable achievement. The question is what we do with this knowledge.

The stories you will read in the following pages compose a snapshot of our global response, across 30 countries and in coordination with more than 1,000 partner organizations, indigenous communities, governments and businesses. Learn how many trees it takes to undertake the world's largest tropical forest restoration program, what we are doing to help local communities save elephants in Africa, and why money really does, sometimes, grow on trees.

In 2017, Conservation International celebrated its 30th anniversary and completed a milestone transition in leadership. I am humbled to serve the organization and build on the astonishing legacy of our founder and chairman, Peter Seligmann. Our new leadership team is focusing on a few key priorities — what we call our “Southern Cross” —to guide our vector.

We are doubling down on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by working with others to protect and restore the most carbon-rich forests and mangroves in the world. In key landscapes and seascapes, we are creating scalable models of sustainability built upon the protection of nature. We want our innovations in science to disrupt our thinking and our innovations in finance to generate long-term financial security for conservation. And we want to attract attention to joint efforts to protect our oceans — a realm woefully unexplored, yet crucial to humanity.

Recently I attended the Pacific Island Forum, a gathering of leaders from Pacific island nations and territories. Many of these leaders spoke in sweeping and personal terms of changing the narrative of the oceans as an inexhaustible resource, and are taking bold action to protect vast swaths of their oceanic territories.

At a time when far richer and more powerful nations risk ceding leadership in conservation, these island nations hold breathtaking ambitions. More than 1,000 years ago, Polynesians set sail across an unimaginably vast ocean not knowing the destination

nor the time of transit. Now, once again, with wisdom and knowledge, indigenous leaders are showing us the way forward.

History has left our generation an opportunity. None before had so complete a set of tools, understanding and resources to alter our future. None after us will have the time to actually do it. The time is now, to reknit the broken covenant between humankind and nature. From all of us at Conservation International, thank you for standing with us.

DR. M. SANJAYAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WHERE WE WORK



Starting with our first project in Bolivia 30 years ago, Conservation International has helped support 1,200 protected areas across 77 countries, safeguarding more than 601 million hectares of land and sea. Working in 30 countries worldwide, Conservation International's reach has never been broader, but our mission remains the same: to protect nature for the benefit of us all.





NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

**WE'RE PIONEERING EFFORTS TO HELP
ADAPT TO AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE
IMPACTS BY PROTECTING NATURE**

PROTECTING AMAZONIA

AN AUDACIOUS PLAN TO PROTECT —
AND RESTORE — A LIFE-GIVING FOREST

“The forest of Amazonia connects us all,” says Kamanja Panashekung. “It provides clean air for the world. It gives life to me — and to you.” Panashekung’s people have lived in Amazonia’s rainforests in Suriname for 15 generations. But as things currently stand, Amazonia as we know it could be unrecognizable to future generations.



**WATCH THE
VIRTUAL REALITY FILM**
conservation.org/canopy



A swath of forests twice the size of London was lost in 2016 in the Brazilian Amazon alone. If this continues, humanity faces the irretrievable loss of one of the great harbors of biodiversity, fresh water and climate resilience.

Over 30 years, Conservation International has protected 65 million hectares (160 million acres) in Brazil, an area nearly the size of Texas. This year, we took the next step, investing in an unprecedented partnership to bring back the Amazon where it has been lost.

Together with the **Brazilian Ministry of Environment, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (Funbio) and Rock in Rio’s** environmental arm, “**Amazonia Live,**” Conservation International made a landmark commitment in 2017 to create the largest tropical reforestation project in the world — one that will restore 73 million trees by 2023. The effort aims to bring down the price of restoration — a major tool for combating climate change worldwide — and will help Brazil achieve its Paris Agreement

target of reforesting 12 million hectares (more than 29 million acres) of land by 2030.

The initiative fits with CI’s ambitious goal to achieve zero net deforestation in Amazonia by 2020. By doing so, we can protect essential resources, mitigate climate change and increase prosperity for all people. Most people will not be able to visit Amazonia, but now everyone can experience the rainforest firsthand through the groundbreaking medium of virtual reality.

To take people there, CI teamed up with the **MacArthur Foundation, SC Johnson** and **Jaunt Studios** to create the virtual-reality film “Under the Canopy.” In the film, Panashekung explains his people’s connections to the forest — and the stakes for protecting it.

“If you don’t know this place, you may see it as mysterious, filled with strange creatures,” he says. “You may see it as scary. But we see it differently. We see it as home. We care for the forest, protect it and tend to its needs — as it tends to ours.”

IMPACT

**73 MILLION TREES
TO BE RESTORED
IN THE BRAZILIAN
AMAZON =**

THE LARGEST TROPICAL
FOREST RESTORATION
PROJECT IN THE WORLD.

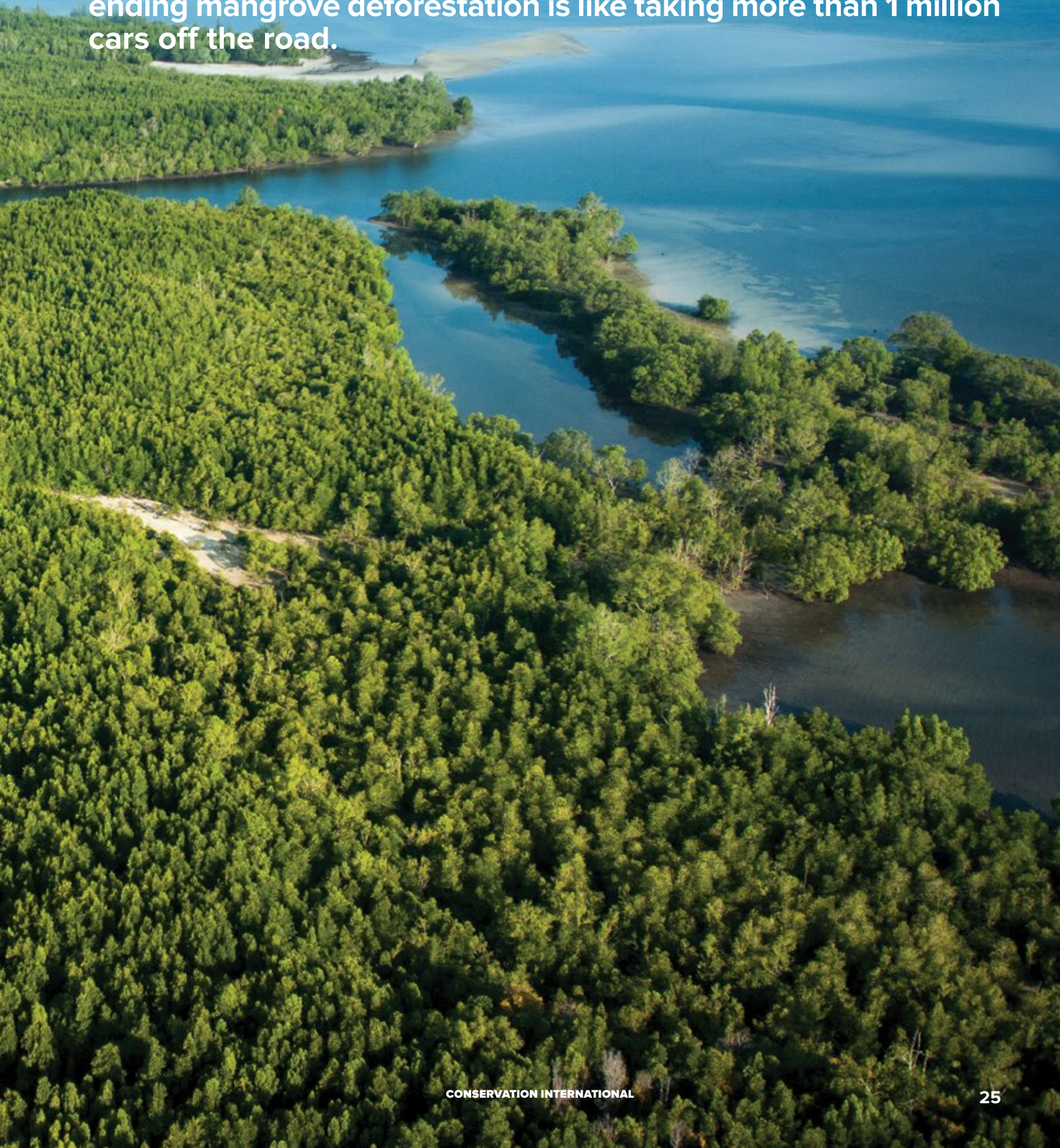






THAILAND, © ARUN ROISRI

Mangrove ecosystems are some of the most productive and biologically diverse on the planet: They serve as habitats for sharks, manatees, crabs and other species; provide food and jobs for millions; and protect some of the most vulnerable coastal communities from storms and rising sea levels. Mangroves also contain the densest stores of organic carbon on the planet—ending mangrove deforestation is like taking more than 1 million cars off the road.



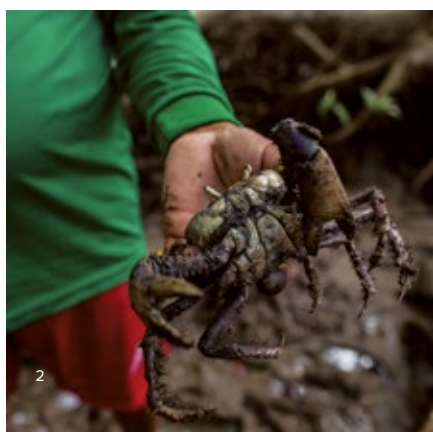
PROTECTING MANGROVES

TAKING A STAND FOR THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEM

Acre for acre, coast-dwelling mangroves store more carbon than almost any other type of forest, locking carbon deep into the mud. A recent study found that the carbon footprint of a steak and shrimp dinner, were it to come from shrimp farms and pasture formerly occupied by mangroves, is the same as driving a small car across the continental United States.

Mangroves also offer crucial habitat for marine life, provide food and jobs for millions, and buffer coastal communities from storm surges and waves. Yet half the world's mangroves have been lost, releasing their outsized carbon stores into the ocean and atmosphere.

In São João de Ponta in northern Brazil, with help from **Google**, Conservation International is pioneering a novel approach to save a mangrove forest. By working to support a sustainable crab-fishing economy, we are helping to improve local livelihoods while protecting an area of mangroves containing the same amount of carbon as the emissions of 1.5 million cars driving for one year.



Around the world, CI and partners have protected 6 million hectares (15 million acres) of coastal areas from unsustainable development — an area 10 times the size of Everglades National Park. This year, we took our ambition to new heights. To reverse the tide of mangrove deforestation, Conservation International helped launch the **Global Mangrove Alliance**, a partnership of NGOs and other stakeholders. Its aim: Stop the destruction of mangroves worldwide and expand their global extent by 20 percent by 2030.

By protecting mangroves, we are combating climate change — and improving the well-being of more than 10 million people who are directly dependent on coastal ecosystems for their food, livelihoods and protection from climate change.

**CI'S PLAN:
TOGETHER WITH
PARTNERS,
STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF
MANGROVES WORLDWIDE
AND EXPAND THEIR
GLOBAL EXTENT BY
20 PERCENT BY 2030.**

Around the world, Conservation International and partners have protected 6 million hectares (15 million acres) of coastal areas, including mangrove forests. That's an area 10x the size of the Everglades.

**BY PROTECTING ONE HECTARE
OF MANGROVE WE CAN:**

REDUCE
STORM IMPACTS BY

50%

INCREASE
TOURISM VALUE BY

US\$1,079

INCREASE
TOURISM VALUE BY

25X

PER YEAR

STORE UP TO

1,100

TONS OF CARBON



I AM BORN OF THIS FOREST

—
KAMANJA PANASHEKUNG,
MEMBER OF THE TRIO INDIGENOUS TRIBE,
IN “UNDER THE CANOPY”

1. ECUADOR, © ELENA KALISTRATOVA

WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

EMPOWERING THE STEWARDS OF THE FOREST

To achieve zero net deforestation in Amazonia by 2020, we need to support conservation by indigenous peoples, who steward at least a quarter of the Earth's forests. By partnering with these guardians of the forest, Conservation International is building a stronger foundation for long-term sustainable development.

To help protect the Central Suriname Nature Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, from illegal logging and mining, CI went straight to the source: communities that live on the park's outskirts.

Our work resulted in an agreement signed in 2017 between CI and the local Matawai indigenous people establishing a conservation area and buffer zone of 71,000 hectares (177,000 acres) adjacent to the reserve. This agreement seeks to conserve the Matawai's community forest while enabling local residents to generate income from the forest in a way that keeps their forest and traditional livelihoods intact.



IN 2017, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MATAWAI INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

ESTABLISHING A CONSERVATION AREA
AND BUFFER ZONE OF 71,000 HECTARES
(177,000 ACRES) ADJACENT TO THE CENTRAL
SURINAME NATURE RESERVE.



INNOVATIONS IN FINANCE

**WE'RE IMPLEMENTING AND SCALING UP
INNOVATIVE FINANCING TO HELP PROTECT
NATURE AND LIVELIHOODS AT THE SAME TIME**



FINANCING A NEW ERA OF CONSERVATION

HELPING UNLOCK BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN NATURE

For years, private investors have pleaded with policymakers: Help us invest in protecting nature.

The problem? For the most part, investing in nature didn't pay. With no established markets for forest carbon and little certainty of returns, investors stayed away — taking trillions of dollars in private capital with them.

As a result, initiatives to protect nature receive about 2 percent of available climate funding, even though conserving and restoring forests represents more than 30 percent of the global action needed to halt climate change.

In 2016, Conservation International stepped in, applying our long experience in conservation finance to this new challenge.

The result: The first-of-its kind Forests Bond, created by the **International Finance Corporation** and **BHP Billiton (BHP)**, with technical support from CI. The bond offers interest payments in the form of carbon credits generated through REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation), an initiative that rewards landholders for protecting forests, thereby reducing the carbon emissions that cause global warming.

The response was resounding: The bond raised US\$152 million from institutional investors—nearly twice what had been originally anticipated—on its way to winning Environmental Finance magazine's 2017 "Deal of the Year" Award.

But the bond was only the beginning.

In 2017, Conservation International joined with **BHP** and **Baker & McKenzie** to launch the **Finance for Forests (F4F)** initiative. The goal: Build on the success of the bond to channel even more private investment into forest conservation.

Building on CI's long history in innovative finance and **BHP's** industry leadership, F4F will share information with governments, companies, institutional investors and others to build understanding of the role of nature in combating climate change and promote investments in forest protection. It will also foster the development of new financial tools and will raise private-sector awareness of REDD+. Finance for Forests has already met with intense interest from the oil and gas, mining, aviation and technology sectors — industries with large carbon footprints.

Ultimately, Finance for Forests seeks to help companies reduce their environmental impact and keep forests standing—a win for investors, a win for the climate and a win for all of us. With this effort, CI is at the leading edge of a new era in environmental finance that could change the calculus to make it worthwhile to invest in nature — our greatest ally in the fight against climate change.



2. ALTO MAYO PROTECTED FOREST, SAN MARTIN, PERU. © CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL/PHOTO BY BAILEY EVANS



SAFEGUARDING THE CHYULU HILLS

IN AFRICA, A GREEN MODEL IS GROWING

Kenya’s Chyulu Hills—immortalized in Ernest Hemingway’s “Green Hills of Africa”— are home to the Maasai people, who steward these spectacular landscapes and their iconic species. Thanks to CI, these storied hills are becoming “green” in a way that Hemingway could never have envisioned.

In July, CI supported the launch of a new carbon offset program in the region, the first-ever wholly community-owned carbon forest. With CI’s support, the Maasai people—and the global climate—will soon benefit from the sale of 2 million carbon credits, which can yield up to US\$ 24 million.

IMPACT

With CI’s support, Kenya’s Maasai people—and the global climate—will benefit from the sale of 2 million carbon credits, which can yield up to US\$ 24 million.




In September, **Tiffany & Co.** made the project’s first investment, as a way to support its global emissions reductions and sustainable development projects. This was an important validation for the use of carbon and other ecosystem services to finance conservation at scale.

Located between Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks, the Chyulu Hills are an integral part of Kenya's largest conservation landscape, and they have been severely impacted by poor grazing, drought and deforestation. They are home to traditional pastoralist Maasai and small-scale farmers, who share the landscape with many of Africa's most iconic species, including endangered rhinos and elephants.



3



**THE OCEAN
IS THE
ORIGIN OF
ALL LIFE AND
IS WHAT
MAKES THIS
PLANET
LIVABLE. IT
IS UNDER
THREAT, AND
WE MUST
ACT NOW.**

—
**'AULANI WILHELM,
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
CENTER FOR OCEANS
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL**

Our long-term goal is to safeguard the world's most productive ecosystems in order to maximize the long-term ecological, social and economic benefits for people and nature.

**BY 2020,
AT LEAST**

**US\$200
BILLION**

OF INVESTMENT CAPITAL COULD BE
AVAILABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT INVESTING.

**TO UNLOCK
THIS CAPITAL,**

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL IS
LAUNCHING A MAJOR INVESTMENT
VEHICLE TO BRIDGE THE GAP
BETWEEN STARTUP GRANTS AND
COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT.

FUNDING CONSERVATION

ACCELERATING PRIVATE-SECTOR
INVESTMENT IN NATURE

By 2020, at least US\$ 200 billion of investment capital could be available for environmental impact investing. Yet a lack of investment-ready opportunities is hampering private-sector investment in conservation.

To unlock this capital, CI is launching a major investment vehicle focused on bridging the gap between startup grants and commercial investment by providing critical loans to projects in the most important landscapes and seascapes around the world. In its first year, CI will build a portfolio of projects and investors and make our first allocations, with the goal of ultimately transacting over 100 deals to improve tens of thousands of lives around the globe and bring 160,000 hectares (395,000 acres) of new land and sea under sustainable management.

SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

**AROUND THE WORLD, CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL MADE MAJOR IMPACTS
IN 2017. HERE'S HOW WE DID IT**



For 30 years and counting, Conservation International has merged cutting-edge science with bold partnerships to achieve lasting impacts on a planet-sized scale. By finding opportunities for decision-makers to use our research, we ensure that countries, companies and communities have a sound evidence base for policy.

Here are some of the ways we did that in 2017.



1. LAU SEASCAPE, FIJI, © CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL/PHOTO BY MARK ERDMANN

NEW DISCOVERIES, NEW PROTECTIONS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

In May, a team of marine conservationists, including CI staff and a local indigenous leader, set sail from the island of Fiji to survey marine life in the Lau Islands, a group of islets in the South Pacific. They were seeking out species—but also clues to the health of these little-explored waters, which provide food and livelihoods for thousands of people.

The divers found six marine species new to science and at one uninhabited atoll, the healthiest reef anyone on the team had ever seen. Their discoveries had an instant impact: Within 24 hours of the team's dive, the area around the atoll was declared a marine protected area by the local community.



IN A MAY
EXPEDITION
TO FIJI'S LAU
ISLANDS BY CI
SCIENTISTS:

6

NEW MARINE
SPECIES WERE
DISCOVERED

AN
ATOLL

WAS DECLARED
A MARINE
PROTECTED
AREA WITHIN
24 HOURS
OF THE TEAM'S
DIVE THERE

A high-angle, aerial photograph of a large herd of elephants in a savanna landscape. The elephants are of various sizes, including several adults and many calves. They are scattered across a field of dry, yellowish-brown grass and patches of green shrubs. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with long shadows cast across the ground. The overall scene conveys a sense of a thriving, natural habitat.

WE NEED NATURE TO PROVIDE A HOME FOR ALL WILDLIFE.

When communities experience the social and economic benefits from healthy wildlife populations, they're empowered to be stewards of the nature around them.

—
KATIE AND JEREMY BASTARD,
FOUNDERS OF RÊTETI ELEPHANT
SANCTUARY

1. MARA NORTH CONSERVANCY, KENYA. © JON MCCORMACK

COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

In recent years, an African elephant was slaughtered every 15 minutes for its ivory. In response, Conservation International has partnered with governments and organizations across Africa to combat poaching and wildlife trafficking on multiple fronts.

CI serves as co-secretariat of the **Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)**, an African-led coalition standing against the international trade in elephant ivory. The 18 African nations of the EPI are home to more than 200,000 elephants—60 percent of the continent's total. Under broad-based international pressure, ivory markets in China, the United States, the European Union and the U.K. have closed in the past two years, with more nations considering similar bans.

Within communities, CI is working to ensure that wildlife protection coincides with sustainable development. In Kenya, with support from **glassybaby** and other partners, CI helped launch the **Reteti Elephant Sanctuary**—the first community-owned elephant sanctuary in East Africa. And through the **Sarara Initiative**, we are helping to strengthen security for elephants and people in Kenya's **Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy** by establishing a rapid-response ranger unit in 2017 and supporting the well-being of rangers and their families with ongoing assistance.



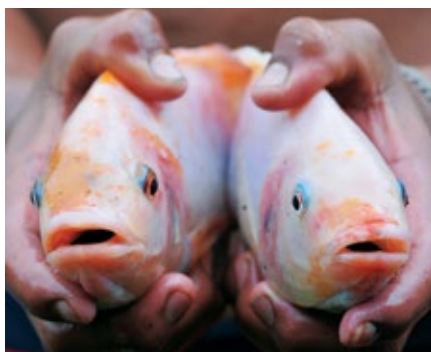
**CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL
SERVES AS
CO-SECRETARIAT
OF THE ELEPHANT
PROTECTION
INITIATIVE (EPI),**
AN AFRICAN-LED COALITION
STANDING AGAINST THE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN
ELEPHANT IVORY.
THE 18 AFRICAN NATIONS
OF THE EPI ARE HOME TO
MORE THAN 200,000
ELEPHANTS — 60 PERCENT
OF THE CONTINENT'S TOTAL.

ENDING SLAVERY IN GLOBAL FISHERIES

In 2015, investigative journalists uncovered seafood's dark secret: that the multibillion-dollar industry was being fueled, at least in part, by slavery.

On fishing boats and in processing plants, people were forcibly held — sometimes for decades — with little or no pay. Many environmental NGOs in the fishing sector wouldn't touch the problem.

CI's Jack Kittinger did. Urged on by a small group of peers, Kittinger assembled a working group to create a framework for social responsibility in the seafood sector. Their recommendations, published in June in the prestigious journal *Science*, called on governments, businesses and NGOs to take measurable steps to ensure seafood — the world's most traded food commodity — is sourced without harm to the people involved in producing, processing and distributing it.



The framework quickly gathered supporters across the sector, and CI helped secure commitments to a shared definition of social responsibility from 25 major seafood businesses. In the next year, we will work with these businesses to implement their commitments, enabling transparency in the often murky seafood supply chain.



GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM FOR SUSTAINABLE COFFEE

In 10 years, the question may not be where you get your morning cup of coffee — but if. As demand for coffee soars, research shows the world’s coffee-growing area is slated to shrink amid a changing climate. How can we ensure the future of a drink we love—and which supports 25 million jobs worldwide?



Conceived by Conservation International and **Starbucks** and launched during the 2015 Paris climate meetings with 18 founding partners, the **Sustainable Coffee Challenge**—a coalition of more than 90 partners from across the coffee sector working to make coffee the world’s first sustainable agricultural product—grew by leaps and bounds in 2017, gaining major retail partners such as **Walmart** and **Nespresso**.

The effort is paying off: A recent report shows that 48 percent of the global coffee crop was produced according to some sort of sustainability standard. If all goes as planned, by 2030, buying a cup of unsustainable coffee won’t be an option.

PROGRESS

48%

**OF THE GLOBAL
 COFFEE CROP**

IS NOW BEING PRODUCED
 UNDER SOME SORT OF
 SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD.



RAJA AMPAT, WEST PAPUA, INDONESIA, © SHAWN HEINRICH

WHAT'S NEXT

**FROM DISRUPTING EXISTING MODELS
OF CONSERVATION TO FORGING NEW
PARTNERSHIPS, HERE ARE A FEW
THINGS WE ARE WORKING ON IN 2018**



WILDLIFE INSIGHTS

A cloud-based, open-source platform, Wildlife Insights is developing machine learning algorithms to automatically identify and tag species at a rate far faster than any human. Analysis that used to take months now takes days.

HOW CAN WE MAKE BETTER USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND BIG DATA TO MONITOR HABITATS?

A groundbreaking new effort could greatly expand our knowledge of where the wild things are. Placed by researchers in natural areas around the world, “camera traps” snap millions of photos of wildlife each year. There’s more data than researchers can process or share — a lost opportunity for science.



Conservation International is working on a solution. In 2017, CI and its partners launched **Wildlife Insights**, the most comprehensive wildlife monitoring platform on the planet.

Cloud-based and open-source, the project will be operated in partnership with the **Smithsonian Institution, Wildlife Conservation Society, The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences** and **Google**. In 2018, this new platform will enable researchers—and anyone else—to view, share and analyze camera-trap photos.



HOW CAN COUNTRIES GROW THEIR ECONOMIES WITHOUT DESTROYING NATURE?

Liberia is at a crossroads. Hectare for hectare, the West African country has some of the highest above-ground stocks of forest carbon in the world. After years of civil war, can it grow sustainably?

In 2017, Conservation International published findings from the first-ever national assessment of Liberia's essential "natural capital"—the sources of the benefits that nature provides, including carbon storage, flood control and biodiversity. Scientists found that designated protected areas currently protect only 7 percent of the nature Liberia needs—but that new proposals for protection could increase that figure to 26 percent.

In the next year, CI will help Liberia's government better understand the true value of nature to the national economy. With this knowledge, the government will be able to make decisions about how to grow while protecting its natural wealth.

According to global estimates, **Liberia has some of the highest above-ground stocks of forest carbon per hectare in the world—higher even than in Amazonia.**

However, only 6 percent of Liberia's closed-canopy forests are currently within designated protected areas.



1. LIBERIA, © CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL/PHOTO BY ROB MCNEIL 2. MONROVIA, LIBERIA, © CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL/PHOTO BY BAILEY EVANS

**OF THE WORLD'S
20 COUNTRIES
MOST VULNERABLE
TO AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION
LOSS DUE TO
CLIMATE CHANGE**

11

ARE IN AFRICA

THIS DATA IS ALSO
INFORMING THE NEW
TRENDS.EARTH TOOL,
WHICH WILL MONITOR
LAND DEGRADATION
(SEE STORY ON PAGE 57).

**WITH BETTER
DATA,
COUNTRIES CAN MAKE
SMARTER DEVELOPMENT
DECISIONS — AND
HELP SET AFRICA ON
A SUSTAINABLE COURSE.**

**HOW CAN
WE USE
SATELLITES
TO HELP
AFRICA GROW
SUSTAINABLY?**

Africa is home to iconic wildlife and 1 billion people, many of whom depend directly on nature for their livelihoods. Conservation International aims to protect Africa's nature for the benefit of people by embedding the value of nature into policies and decision-making. To do this, we need a bird's-eye view of the continent—and that's where **NASA** comes in.

The U.S. space agency has been a major actor in conservation, with its satellite data providing a critical tool for conservation planning and management. In 2017, CI and NASA teamed up to equip African governments with the information they need to incorporate the value of nature into their economies. With better data, countries in 2018 will be able to make smarter development decisions—and help set Africa on a sustainable course.



3



4



WE NEED NATURE TO UNITE US AROUND A COMMON CAUSE: TAKING CARE OF THE EARTH THAT SUSTAINS US.

CI's work in more than 30 countries
leverages expertise and creates
long-term impacts across the globe.

—
**ANDRES SANTO DOMINGO,
CO-OWNER AND PRESIDENT
OF KEMADO RECORDS
AND CI BOARD MEMBER**

1. VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE, BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES, © CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PHOTO BY STERLING ZUMBRUNN

HOW CAN WE USE NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY TO ADAPT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

For the world's most vulnerable communities, "green" infrastructure—nature itself—is the most cost-effective and efficient way to address the impacts of climate change. Yet as the effects of climate change mount, we must find new ways to avert damage from climate-related natural disasters.

By combining elements of traditional "gray" engineering with nature-based "green" infrastructure, Conservation International is developing the next generation of climate adaptation, building effective protection from climate impacts while preserving the benefits that nature provides to people.

In 2017, CI launched a "green-gray" infrastructure project in the Philippines that prioritizes conservation and ecosystem services while providing climate protection. Announced at the 2017 Our Ocean Conference alongside **Bechtel Corporation** and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, this pioneering solution will hit the ground in 2018, combining coral reef protection, mangrove restoration and an engineered breakwater in a promising pilot project.

MANGROVES ARE EFFECTIVE AT REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF WAVES, MODERATING FLOODING AND CONTROLLING EROSION

AN ESTIMATED

3.5

MILLION PEOPLE

IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

ARE CURRENTLY PROTECTED FROM STORM IMPACTS BY MANGROVES—

A NUMBER EXPECTED TO MORE THAN DOUBLE TO

7.2

MILLION PEOPLE


WHEN YOU CONSIDER PREDICTED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



2. SILONAY, PHILIPPINES, © NANDINI NARAYANAN



RAJA AMPAT, WEST PAPUA, INDONESIA, © JEFF YONOVER

A large, dense school of small fish, likely sardines or anchovies, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are tightly packed together, creating a textured, almost solid mass of silvery-blue bodies. They are viewed from above, and their movement creates a sense of dynamic energy. The background is a deep, clear blue, suggesting an open ocean environment.

Comparing across food systems, cows require a nearly 7:1 ratio, or seven pounds of feed to add one pound of body mass. Fish are close to 1:1. In terms of converting food into something that we eat, fish are some of the most efficient animal protein sources available.



FISH FARMS

Almost half of humanity relies on seafood as a primary source of animal protein—and half of all seafood is produced in aquaculture farms.

HOW CAN WE MAKE FISH FARMS MORE SUSTAINABLE?

Almost half of humanity relies on seafood as a primary source of animal protein—and half of all seafood is produced in aquaculture farms. Compared with other forms of animal production, fish farming is more efficient and environmentally friendly, yet rapid growth and expansion of intensive aquaculture has resulted in widespread environmental degradation from pollution, waste and habitat destruction.



To help produce more sustainably farmed seafood, Conservation International is developing science-based best practices for the aquaculture sector. By partnering with governments, civil society and companies, CI aims to enable strong governance and private-sector transformation to help develop a responsible aquaculture industry. Done right, aquaculture can have minimal environmental impacts while increasing opportunities for economic development, job creation and food security.

HOW CAN WE STOP— AND REVERSE—THE DEGRADATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS?



3, 4. DOWA, TANZANIA. © CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL/T.O. SCHNADER

By 2050, food production will have to increase by 70 percent to meet expected demand. Making matters worse, the effects of climate change on crop production are expected to be severe in places already struggling with food shortages—partly due to drought, deforestation and unsustainable development that are degrading the productivity of lands.

In 2017, Conservation International, through a partnership with **Lund University** and **NASA**, created a land degradation monitoring platform, **Trends.Earth**, to employ big data and cloud computing to help users identify degraded areas and to devise locally appropriate measures to address them. The tool is already being applied in four African countries and is rapidly expanding at the request of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

In 2018, Trends.Earth will be introduced by UNCCD to the 195 country signatories of the convention as the recommended tool for national-level planning to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world by 2030.



**BY 2050,
FOOD PRODUCTION
WILL HAVE TO
INCREASE BY**

70%

TO MEET
EXPECTED
DEMAND

NATIONAL PARKS AROUND THE WORLD ARE BEING CHIPPED AWAY, RESTRUCTURED AND MODIFIED—

most visibly in December 2017, when the Trump administration moved to downsize two U.S. national monuments.



HOW CAN WE ENSURE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OVER LARGE AREAS?

Conservation works best when it is at scale, taking into account the many uses and functions of an area of land or sea— including the many people who live in it and rely on it.

Such regions—which we call landscapes and seascapes—are areas that enable Conservation International to have multiple projects and interventions in one geography, better enabling us to ensure long-term sustainability that accounts for the many uses of lands and waters.

In the coming year, Conservation International will measure ecosystem health, human well-being and enduring outcomes across a portfolio of selected regions to inform upcoming projects to build a sustainable future for the places we work around the world.



HOW PROTECTED ARE PROTECTED AREAS?

Research from Conservation International is showing that governments are shrinking, loosening or eliminating national parks and other protected areas around the world— most visibly in December 2017, when the Trump administration moved to downsize two U.S. national monuments.

Such moves can disturb and fragment ecosystems, reducing biodiversity and harming habitat health, all while giving other countries the moral license to take similar actions to remove critical protections for areas of key biodiversity around the world.

In 2017, the CI community sent over 30,000 comments to the U.S. government in defense of national parks and monuments. In the coming year, new CI research will examine the state of protected-area status on regional, national and global scales, investigating what happens when protected areas are tempered, reduced or eliminated and placing the United States' recent moves into historic context.

1. VALLEY OF THE GODS, BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT, UNITED STATES, © JOHN FOWLER/FICKR CREATIVE COMMONS 2. CHONGZHOU, SICHUAN, CHINA, © KYLE OBERMANN

A full-page background image showing a diver in the upper right quadrant, wearing a mask and fins, holding a camera. In the lower half, a large whale shark with white spots on a greyish-blue body swims towards the viewer. The water is a deep, clear blue.

WE NEED NATURE TO THRIVE IN CRITICAL MARINE HABITATS

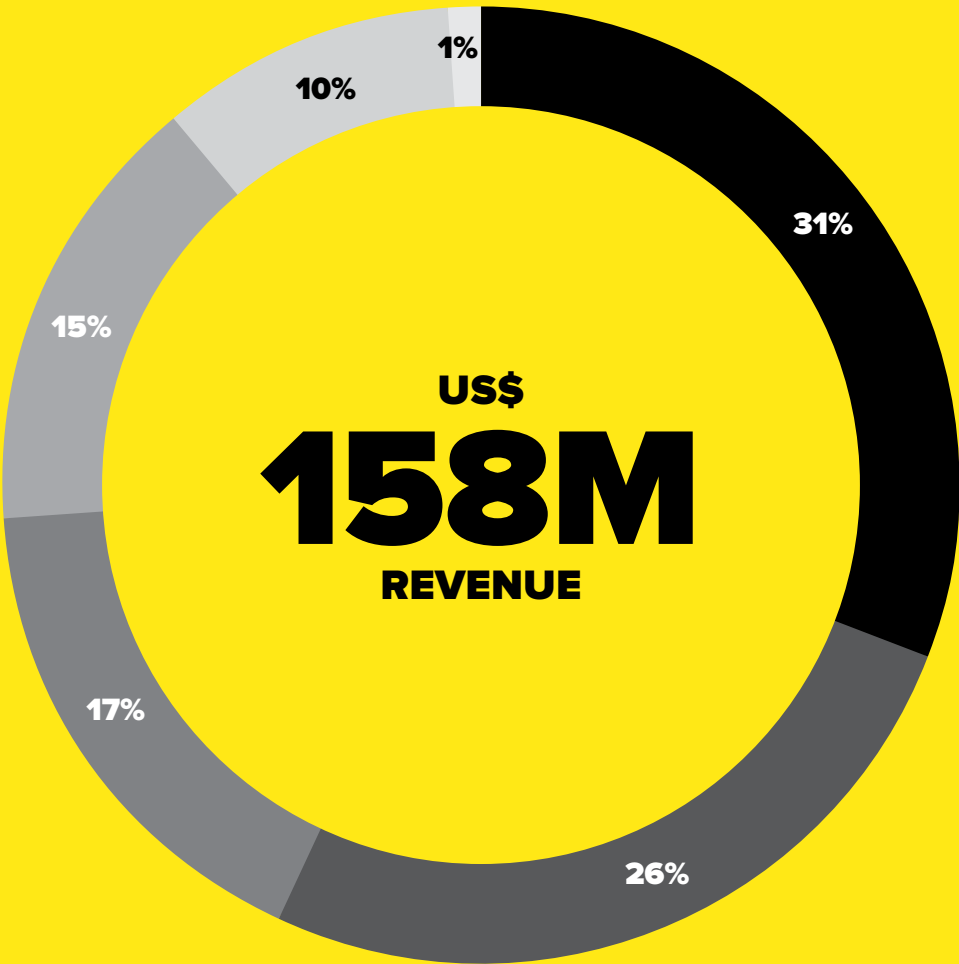
such as the Bird's Head Seascape in Indonesia — the global epicenter of marine biodiversity. To do our part, White & Case LLP lawyers worked pro bono with CI to forge the Blue Abadi Fund, designed to provide essential financing to protect the Seascape in perpetuity.

—
**BARRYE WALL, PARTNER,
SINGAPORE, WHITE & CASE**

OUR SUPPORTERS



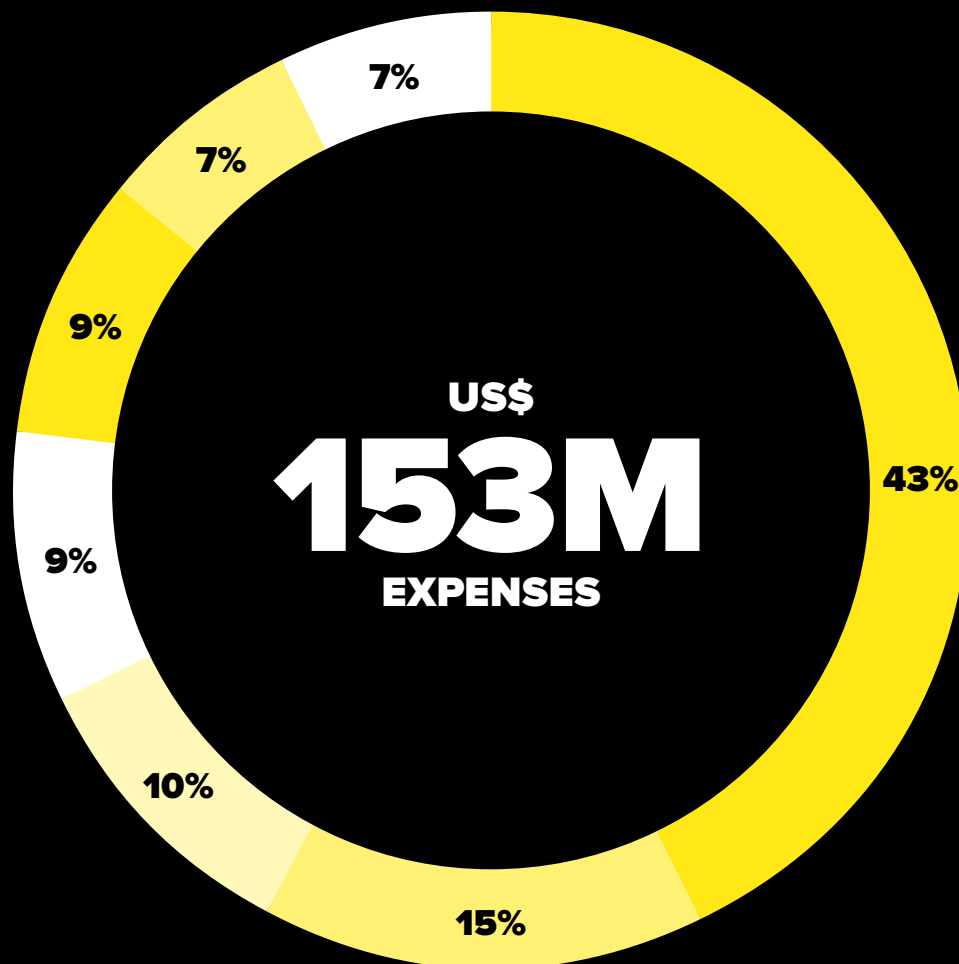
Conservation International supporters and partners know that we need nature. Their tremendous generosity is helping CI protect the planet for the future of us all.



REVENUE

In fiscal year 2017, Conservation International raised a total of US\$ 158 million in revenue from deeply committed supporters from around the globe.

- 31%** Individuals
- 26%** Foundations
- 17%** Investments
- 15%** Corporations
- 10%** Public Funding, NGOs and Multilaterals
- 1%** Other Income



EXPENSES

CI closed fiscal year 2017 with expenses totaling US\$ 153 million.

- 43%** Country, Regional and Oceans
- 15%** Grantmaking Divisions
- 10%** Policy, Communications and Other Programs
- 9%** Center for Environmental Leadership in Business
- 9%** Management and Operations
- 7%** Moore Center for Science
- 7%** Fundraising



FOR 30 YEARS CI HAS BUILT A LEGACY OF INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION THAT BENEFITS HUMANITY.

This work wouldn't be possible without the steadfast dedication and passion of our global community. Through their support, individuals, foundations, corporations and NGOs have become CI's partners in our worldwide efforts to protect the nature that people need for food, water, livelihoods and climate resilience.

FINANCES

Following a year of profound political, environmental and societal change across our planet, Conservation International wishes to thank our donors for their unwavering support and commitment to our mission. Now more than ever, this support has been critical to our efforts to ensure a healthy, vibrant planet that can provide food, fresh water and a stable climate.

We received \$158 million in revenues and support in fiscal year 2017 (FY17), enabling us to invest \$153 million in vital conservation endeavors during the year. In contrast, we reported an exceptional \$212 million in revenues in FY16 as a result of securing several large, multi-year commitments for specific long-term projects.

Expenses totaled \$153 million in FY17, slightly higher than FY16 levels of \$152 million. The majority of our programmatic work is implemented through our country and regional programs, composing the largest percentage of our expenditures: \$61 million, or 40 percent of total FY17 expenditures.

Our partners are essential to carrying out our on-the-ground work, and we support them by providing the tools and capital they need to protect nature. Globally, grants to local groups and organizations accounted for \$36 million, or approximately 24 percent of our expenditures in FY17.

At CI, we strive to maximize programmatic impact while carefully stewarding every dollar we receive. As a result, we have consistently earned the highest ratings from watchdog groups such as Charity Watch and Charity Navigator.

CI enters FY18 with a net asset balance of \$329 million, the majority of which is earmarked for specific programmatic purposes.



While our world remains deeply divided on many global issues, we are heartened that so many nations are now coming together to conserve our forests, wildlife, watersheds and oceans.

As we seize this remarkable moment, we're so grateful for the generosity of our supporters, whose dedication allows us to urgently pursue solutions to the most pressing challenges of our time.

FY17 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES


	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUE				
Contributions				
Individuals	\$4,355	\$44,807	—	\$49,162
Foundations	3,142	23,145	2	26,289
Corporations	1,023	1,296	—	2,319
Other	6	347	—	353
Grants + Contracts				
Corporations	14,645	6,639	—	21,284
Foundations	428	15,118	—	15,546
NGO/multilaterals	1,905	9,923	—	11,828
Public Funding	1,202	2,247	—	3,449
Licensing Agreements, Product Sales + Other Income	1,505	—	—	1,505
Investment Income	2,290	23,943	—	26,233
Net Assets Released from Donor Restrictions	124,268	(124,268)	—	—
TOTAL REVENUE	154,769	3,197	2	157,968
EXPENSES				
Program Services				
Country + Regional	61,101	—	—	61,101
Grantmaking Divisions	23,441	—	—	23,441
Center for Env. Leadership in Business	13,576	—	—	13,576
Moore Center for Science Policy	10,198	—	—	10,198
Center for Oceans Communications	5,566	—	—	5,566
Other Programs	5,319	—	—	5,319
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	128,600	—	—	128,600
Supporting Services				
Management + Operations	14,053	—	—	14,053
Fundraising	10,739	—	—	10,739
Total Supporting Services	24,792	—	—	24,792
TOTAL EXPENSES	153,392	—	—	153,392
Changes in Net Assets Before Non-Operating Activity	1,377	3,197	2	4,576
Non Op Activity Gain on Foreign Currency Translation	—	1,689	—	1,689
Changes in Net Assets	\$1,377	\$4,886	\$2	\$6,265
NET ASSETS				
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	15,471	294,099	13,315	322,885
Changes in Net Assets	1,377	4,886	2	6,265
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$16,848	\$298,985	\$13,317	\$329,150



WE NEED NATURE FOR OUR VERY EXISTENCE.

By strengthening
communities' abilities
to grow their economies
without eroding
their natural resources,
CI is creating sustainable
ways to live.

—
**MARK FERGUSON, PARTNER AND
CO-CIO AT GENERATION INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT AND CI BOARD MEMBER**



WE NEED NATURE TO REMIND US WHERE WE CAME FROM AND WHAT WE ARE A PART OF,

to feel pleasure in its
beauty and to challenge us
with its extremes —
in short, to give us life.

—
PEPI ROSS, CI EMERALD CIRCLE
AND FUTURE OF LIFE SOCIETY MEMBER

1. MT. KILIMANJARO FROM KENYA. © IAN LENEHAN/500PX

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* Deceased



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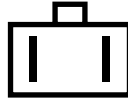
Anamika Kansal
Vice President, Global Operations

WAYS TO JOIN

CONSERVATION.ORG/JOIN



MAKE A ONE-TIME
CONTRIBUTION



GIVE THROUGH
YOUR WORKPLACE



BECOME A MONTHLY
SUPPORTER



FUNDRAISE FOR CI
THROUGH YOUR OWN
EVENT OR ACTIVITY



HONOR FRIENDS, FAMILY
OR LOVED ONES WITH
A GIFT IN THEIR NAME



GIVE THROUGH
A DONOR-ADVISED FUND



JOIN THE EMERALD
CIRCLE OF
ANNUAL GIVERS



REMEMBER CI IN
YOUR WILL OR
LIVING TRUST



DONATE STOCKS,
BONDS, MUTUAL
FUNDS OR BITCOIN

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**PEOPLE
NEED
NATURE
TO
THRIVE.**