



M. Sanjayan, Chief Executive Officer, Conservation International. © Georgina Goodwin

DEAR FRIENDS,

The most frequent question I get whenever I speak to an audience is this: Are you hopeful about the future?

It's a fair question. There's certainly ample cause for alarm. Over the next five years, there's a 50/50 chance that planetary warming exceeds 1.5°C. If we cross that threshold, 90 percent of coral reefs could die off, extreme heat waves will be common, sea levels will rise several feet and ecosystems will tip.

But there is still room for hope. Why?
Because we finally have solutions
that can scale, a broad coalition of
partners and the attention of the world
— and your generosity is helping us
and others tip the odds in our favor.

Less than a decade ago, some world leaders were still debating the existence of climate change, but public opinion shifted faster than we ever thought possible. Today,

governments, regulators, financial institutions and corporations are doubling-down on net-zero pledges — and, at last, the energy transition has begun in earnest. But even if the world were to phase out fossil fuels overnight, it still wouldn't be enough. Temperatures will continue rising until we address the destruction of nature, which accounts for one-quarter of global emissions.

In recent years, nature-based solutions — which harness the carbon-storing power of Earth's vital ecosystems — have won broad support at global gatherings, including the World Economic Forum and UN climate talks; in the United States Congress, where I testified in May; and in the boardrooms of many Fortune 500 companies. With your trust, we have capitalized on this momentum, expanding our impact around the world. Over the past year:

Our scientists released a first-ofits-kind roadmap for maximizing nature's climate-stabilizing potential; developed an atlas of the world's most irreplaceable carbon-rich ecosystems; and published landmark research on pandemic prevention.

Our field teams developed the world's first verified blue carbon project in coastal Colombia; supported planet-positive economies, from Africa to South America; and expanded our Amazonia portfolio with a new, Indigenous-led project to protect 1.1 million hectares of forest, better manage 8.1 million hectares and support the livelihoods of 60,000 people.

Our policy teams partnered with South Pacific governments to reimagine national fisheries management; supported new marine protected areas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific; and worked with U.S. House leadership to write transformative legislation to end deforestation and slash carbon emissions.

You can read more about these accomplishments — and all the others you've made possible — in this report.

Right now, we stand at a crossroads: The Amazon is turning into a grassland. Flooding recently left one-third of Pakistan under water. Hurricanes are escalating in severity. With so much at stake, the world is looking to us to chart the path forward. The challenges that lie ahead are herculean, but so too is our opportunity to reshape history together — to leave behind a legacy that will endure for centuries to come. This is the voyage of a lifetime; we're grateful to have you by our side.

With gratitude,

M. Sanjayan

CEO, Conservation International



Over the next five years, there's a 50/50 chance that planetary warming exceeds the all-important 1.5°C threshold. In this decisive decade, every action counts, and your generosity is helping us tip those odds back in humanity's favor."

MEASURING YOUR IMPACT

We are proud to present the results from our site-based monitoring framework, which collects data on our work in the countries where we have an office and measures impact based on hectares conserved, carbon secured, people reached through our work, and species supported.



HECTARES

Together with partners, Conservation International supported the conservation of over

90 million hectares of land and coasts,

of which 860,000 hectares are under restoration.



CARBON

This secures

2.6 billion metric tons

of carbon from terrestrial and coastal sites, with more than 40 million metric tons coming from newly conserved areas.



OCEAN

The Blue Nature Alliance invested in partners directly working to establish new protections and/or to improve the management of

12 million km²

of ocean conservation areas.



PEOPLE

Our conservation actions reached more than

7.3 million people.



SPECIES

Our implementation sites conserve habitat that is home to more than **1,600 threatened species.**



WITH YOUR SUPPORT,

WE ARE STABILIZING OUR CLIMATE BY PROTECTING AND RESTORING NATURE

The most ingenious solutions to climate change don't need to be invented — we already have them. By absorbing and storing carbon from the atmosphere, ecosystems like forests, mangroves and peatlands can help to forestall climate change. Science shows that conserving, restoring or improving the use of these ecosystems — known as natural climate solutions — has the potential to deliver over a third of the emissions reductions we need by 2030 to stabilize our climate.

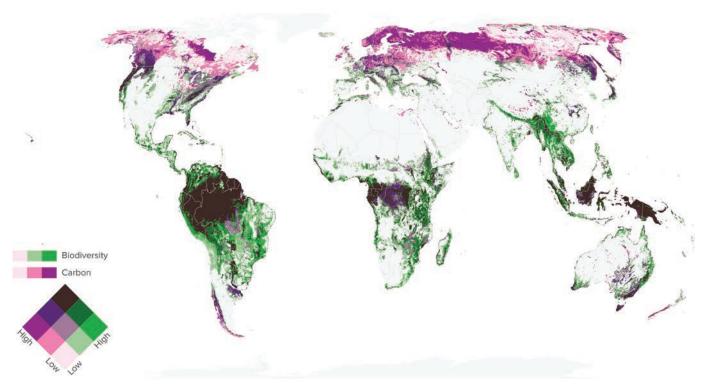




One method to restore degraded grasslands in southern Kenya involves digging semi-circular pits in the ground to collect rainwater and prevent soil erosion. © Big Life Foundation

RESTORING KENYA'S RANGELANDS TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR LOCAL PEOPLE, LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE — AND TO STORE MORE CARBON, WHICH HELPS STABILIZE THE CLIMATE FOR US ALL

At the foot of the Chyulu Hills in southeast Kenya, the grasslands, once overgrazed, are looking green again, thanks in part to a few pits in the ground. With local partners and Maasai communities, plus an investment from Apple, Conservation International's team in Kenya demonstrated how one approach can speed up the restoration of degraded rangelands and yield results that benefit nature, people and the climate. Through "assisted natural regeneration," local communities, with vast knowledge of the land, are enlisted to help vegetation naturally recover with minimal or no need for direct planting. Recent science has shown that such approaches can reduce restoration costs by at least half, while the conservation gains can be tripled. For example, this year 400 community members were employed to dig nearly 9,000 "bunds," or semi-circular shaped pits that capture rainwater that will otherwise run off the dry, barren soil. These pits also help to prevent soil erosion, which in turn increases the soil's potential to absorb and store more carbon. With this method, vegetation has started regrowing — providing critical food for the livestock that Maasai livelihoods depend on, and for iconic wildlife like elephants and rhinos. By the end of 2023, this restoration work will grow from 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) to 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres) of important rangelands. What's more, this approach serves as a model for restoring communal rangeland across Africa and demonstrates how to fight climate change while supporting rural livelihoods.



© Conservation International

WHAT IF WE COULD PINPOINT THE PLACES WE MUST PROTECT TO STABILIZE THE CLIMATE? GOOD NEWS: OUR SCIENTISTS DID

Conservation International scientists published a groundbreaking study that maps the carbon-rich ecosystems that humanity must protect to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Our scientists identified ecosystems that collectively store 139 billion metric tons of "irrecoverable carbon" — carbon that, if lost due to deforestation, could not be reabsorbed from the atmosphere within our lifetimes. They also determined that the world could keep 75 percent of that carbon out of the atmosphere by conserving just 5.4 percent of Earth's land, beyond existing protected areas. And half of the world's irrecoverable carbon is found on a tiny 3.3 percent of its land area, meaning we can focus our efforts in places with the greatest potential gains for the climate, biodiversity and human well-being.

Companies, financial institutions and governments responded swiftly to this scientific breakthrough; within months of the study's publication, Conservation International secured funding to establish the first Irrecoverable Carbon Reserves across 50,000 square kilometers (19,305 square miles) of forests and mangroves in the Amazon.



"I remain hopeful about the future of our planet because nature is incredibly resilient. It can help us adapt to climate change and other challenges when we manage it sustainably and inclusively."

Giacomo Fedele, Adaptation Strategy Director, Conservation International



By investing in local capacity to manage and protect forests, Madagascar saw deforestation rates dip by more than half in two forests. © Conservation International/photo by Andoniaina Rambeloson

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY FOREST PATROLS AND LOCAL LAND MANAGEMENT KEEPS TREES STANDING WHILE SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS

Through enhanced community forest patrols and support for agroforestry, Conservation International's team in Madagascar helped bring deforestation rates down by more than half in one protected area and by over 70 percent in another. Both the Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor and the Ambositra-Vondrozo Corridor are home to some of the country's last remaining tropical forests and iconic lemurs. To help keep trees standing while also sustaining livelihoods, Conservation International worked with local partners to introduce alternatives to traditional shifting agriculture (where a plot of land is cleared and cultivated, then abandoned and left to regenerate as the farmer shifts to a new area of cleared forest). Examples include fish farming near wetland rice fields and planting cash crops, like lychees and cloves, within agroforestry systems on the forest fringes. In a country that has seen extensive habitat loss and soil erosion due to rampant deforestation, these declining rates show that strengthening local capacity to manage forests can help protect important natural carbon sinks, protect wildlife and improve local livelihoods.

SPOTLIGHT: PLANET-SAVING SCIENCE

REMOVING OVERGROWN VINES FROM FORESTS CAN MORE THAN DOUBLE CARBON ABSORPTION

An astonishing study co-authored by Conservation International scientists demonstrated the opportunities of scientific breakthroughs when it found that removing super-abundant woody vines and other treeclimbing plants from a forest area can more than double tree growth, making vine thinning a major new strategy for restoring degraded forests and increasing the carbon they absorb. This action could

accelerate tree growth enough to sequester up to 3 gigatons of carbon dioxide annually.

To put this in perspective, only China and the United States have total annual emissions that surpass that amount. Conservation International scientists say the low cost of this intervention makes it able to be scaled up quickly.

INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT ACTION FOCUSED ON THE HEALTH OF NATURE AND PEOPLE

As a trusted adviser, Conservation International engages with all levels of government to promote solutions that protect nature and people. This year, we engaged with the U.S. government and international organizations to promote urgent actions, including:



Ecosystems rich in biodiversity are more resilient to climate change. © Ionathan Irish

Ending and reversing global biodiversity loss

Conservation International continues to work with partners to shape key sections of the Global Biodiversity Framework, created to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. In December, countries will negotiate this updated set of global goals that will guide conservation efforts for the next 10 years. This year, our experts worked to ensure the Framework:

- · Includes the full, effective and equitable participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities
- · Prioritizes action in places providing food, water and climate security
- · Advances a nature-positive strategy that halts and reverses nature loss



Conservation International CEO Dr. M. Sanjayan testified before the U.S. House of Representatives in support of the AMAZON21 bill. © Conservation International

Introducing U.S. climate legislation co-authored by **Conservation International**

Conservation International worked with House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) to craft legislation that would increase U.S. support for tropical forest conservation. The bill, known as AMAZON21, would create a carbon sequestration fund for the U.S. State Department to enter into long-term, bilateral agreements with developing countries to assist them in ending deforestation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The legislation would also direct the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to help landowners in developing countries access and benefit from carbon markets.



Protecting nature to prevent pandemics costs just 1% of fighting them. © Conservation International/photo by Emilie Verdon

Conservation International experts engage with all levels of government to promote solutions that protect nature and people. © iStock.com/Johnny Greig

Preventing future pandemics by ending deforestation

With input from Conservation International, the Preventing Future Pandemics Act (PFPA) includes strong language on ending deforestation and addressing wildlife trade, with the goal of reducing the risk of pathogen spillover from animals into people. The U.S. House of Representatives passed PFPA as an amendment to the America COMPETES Act with bipartisan support; it is now being considered in the Senate.

Driving increased investment to natural climate solutions

At the 2021 UN climate talks in Glasgow (COP 26), Conservation International provided leadership and technical advice to help establish global rules for carbon trading among countries. Known as Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, this important framework will drive increased investment for natural climate solutions and help speed high-quality, consistent and transparent climate action through carbon markets.

SPOTLIGHT: INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR CONSERVATION

FINANCING HIGH-QUALITY CARBON PROJECTS: WE ARE THE FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL NGO TO PARTNER WITH GLOBAL ASSET OWNER

We took a major step toward stimulating the growth of carbon markets by being the first environmental NGO to partner with a global asset owner, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), Canada's largest pension plan.

Our CPPIB partners committed an initial US\$ 20 million to create Accelerate Nature,

a company designed to jumpstart projects that reduce global carbon emissions and enable the private sector to purchase certified carbon credits generated by projects in Brazil, Chile, Peru and Colombia. Each project is designed to support the economic development of Indigenous peoples and local communities.



In partnership with Apple, and building on flexible funding provided in 2010, Conservation International developed an internationally recognized model for financing the conservation of important marine ecosystems, like this mangrove forest in Colombia's Cispatá Bay. © Daniel Uribe

A SMALL, FLEXIBLE INVESTMENT LEADS TO A BOLD STEP IN STABILIZING OUR CLIMATE: THE FIRST-EVER BLUE CARBON CONSERVATION CREDITS

In the 2021 Impact Report, we shared the news of how our project protecting mangroves in Cispatá Bay, Colombia, became the first to issue blue carbon conservation credits anywhere in the world.

Today, all the project's available carbon credits have been sold; 92 percent of the funds generated from these sales is being reinvested in the project, establishing a reliable source of financing to protect the mangroves and support the 12,000 people who depend on them for their livelihoods.

By 2023, the project — led by an inclusive partnership of government and local community and conservation organizations — is expected to issue a new round of credits.

What started as a small investment of flexible funds has blossomed into an internationally recognized model now praised for how it protects biodiversity, provides climate mitigation and adaptation benefits. The government of Colombia is seeking to replicate this successful flagship project in six other locations along its Caribbean coast, scaling it into a national program and bringing the concept of market-driven conservation to new areas. We are also working to replicate this model globally with governments and communities in nine additional countries, including Mexico, Brazil and the Philippines. With international demand for blue carbon credits far outstripping the supply, Conservation International's experience in Colombia has helped build investor confidence and demonstrated the value of high-quality carbon projects designed in partnership with local communities.

released, accelerating the climate crisis.

marine ecosystems like mangroves and seagrasses.

Mangroves, like these along the Mocajuba River on the northern coast of Brazil, support food security for coastal communities who eat and sell crabs, clams and fish. © Flavio Forner

THANKS TO YOU,

WE ARE ON THE WAY TO DOUBLING OCEAN PROTECTION

The ocean feeds us, regulates our climate, helps us breathe and supports much of the world's economy. By the end of the century, however, more of the world's ocean could be hot, more acidic and lifeless — with catastrophic implications for marine life, Earth's climate and the food security of billions of people. The science is clear: Setting aside large areas where human activities are carefully managed can buffer our planet against the increasing stressors it faces. That's why Conservation International is partnering with countries to meet the global goal of conserving 30 percent of the ocean by 2030 and ensuring that production systems in the other 70 percent are sustainable.



Generous private funding is supporting the development of a \$70 million proposal to help tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies adapt to climate change. © iStock.com/Nuture

CLIMATE CHANGE IS DRIVING TUNA AWAY FROM PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS THAT RELY ON IT FOR FOOD AND ECONOMIC SECURITY. WE'RE PARTNERING WITH THEM TO SECURE FUNDING AND SUPPORT TO SUSTAIN THEIR ACCESS TO TUNA.

New research from Conservation International and partners found that climate change will progressively drive tuna out of the waters of Pacific Island nations and into international waters — potentially causing these small economies to lose up to \$140 million annually by 2050 and increasing the likelihood of overfishing and illegal fishing of the world's most valuable tuna stocks. To address this climate-driven crisis, Conservation International and partner organizations are collaborating with 14 Pacific Island nations to develop a major funding proposal — with support from the Minderoo Foundation — for the Green Climate Fund to create a program that will increase community access to the tuna that remains in the nations' waters and develop an advanced warning system to more accurately model where climate change will drive fish stocks — increasing the food security of four million people. Equipped with tools to better understand the effects of climate change on this valuable resource, tuna-dependent island nations will be able to negotiate in international forums to retain revenue from fishing fees — used to fund schools, hospitals, roads and water supplies — regardless of where the fish move.

ESTABLISHING AND EXPANDING MULTIPLE OCEAN CONSERVATION AREAS SO NATURE AND PEOPLE THRIVE

From Ecuador to Fiji, we collaborated with partners — including governments and Indigenous peoples — to protect vast areas of ocean that communities depend on for their economic and food security.

Latin American countries create an interconnected safe route for sea turtles, whales and other migratory species guided by our science

The governments of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama linked their Pacific marine reserves to create one interconnected, protected corridor. Covering more than 500,000 square kilometers (193,000 square miles), this network of marine protected areas provides a safe route for migratory species like sea turtles, whales, manta rays and sharks, while benefiting local communities by promoting sustainable fisheries. Working in this area since 2005, Conservation International experts contributed research about how migrating species use the area between protected areas and delivered the scientific basis to make this network a reality — after all, many endangered species like the hammerhead shark know no national boundaries.

Madagascar marine corridor tripled in size to provide food, economic security and climate benefits now and into the future

In response to requests from local communities that have seen increased fish yields from protected coastal areas, Conservation International worked with the Madagascar government and the communities to triple the size of the 7 Bays Marine Corridor, from 390 square kilometers (150 square miles) to 1,130 square kilometers (436 square miles). With support from several partners, including the French Development Agency, the German development bank KfW, and the Madagascar Protected Areas and Biodiversity Fund (a trust fund that Conservation International helped establish), the expanded 7 Bays Marine Corridor — teeming with mangroves and marine life — is now in a stronger position to provide food security and climate benefits.

Blue Nature Alliance protects an area of ocean larger than Europe

Since launching in April 2021, the Blue Nature Alliance has supported conservation in 21 sites spanning more than 12 million square kilometers of ocean (4.6 million square miles), two-thirds of the way toward the Alliance's goal to conserve 18 million square kilometers (6.9 million square miles) of the ocean. For example, the small island nation of Niue — a raised coral atoll about 2.400 kilometers (1.500 miles) northeast of New Zealand — passed legislation ensuring responsible management and use of 100 percent of its waters. With technical support and financing from the Blue Nature Alliance and a local partner, the Niue Ocean Wide Project, Niue will monitor ocean use, enforce rules, build sustainable livelihoods and increase resilience to the climate crisis — building on more than 1,000 years of traditional knowledge, practices, and respect for the ocean to ensure abundance for future generations.

With new commitment, Fiji protects 30 percent of island chain — along with jobs, wildlife, climate resilience

The Fijian government committed to protect 30 percent of the Lau Islands (the most remote island group in Fiji), spanning 100,000 square kilometers (38,610 square miles). Facing immense threats to their environment and culture, the Vanua — Lau's customary leaders — created the Lau Seascape with support from their respective communities, the government, Conservation International and partners. This years-in-the-making moment will benefit local livelihoods, increase resilience to climate change, safeguard biodiversity and strengthen the economy. It also signifies the collective will of Pacific peoples and their governments to protect and sustainably manage their oceans against the impacts of climate change.



"Stay optimistic because every day millions of people are fighting for the rights of humans and nature. Societies are transforming, and communities who rely on nature are changing their practices as they bet on a better world."

Laura Jaramillo, Director of Integrated Management and Ocean Governance, Conservation International Colombia

SPOTLIGHT: INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL VENTURES INVESTED IN BUSINESSES THAT CREATE JOBS IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES, REDUCE POLLUTION AND IMPROVE FISHERIES

Conservation International
Ventures LLC (CI Ventures), an
impact-first investment fund
managed by Conservation
International, invests in planetpositive businesses that create
jobs and protect and restore
forests, rangelands and waters.
This year, CI Ventures supported
multiple businesses working to
maintain healthy oceans and to
support coastal livelihoods.



Regenerative seaweed farming can help to replenish our ocean and support millions of livelihoods. © Coast 4C

- Reduce poverty and plastic pollution. After a devastating super typhoon uprooted lives in the Philippines in December 2021, a CI Ventures investment enabled the seaweed trading company Coast 4C to rebuild its farming infrastructure and provide essential materials to farmers directly contributing to post-typhoon recovery in affected coastal communities. Over the next five years, Coast 4C plans to expand their operations, directly improving the management of 300 square kilometers (116 square miles) of coastal habitats, source sustainably grown seaweed from 2,000 families, and halve the incidence of poverty and marine plastic pollution in at least 40 coastal communities.
- → Sustainable fishing, improved livelihoods. In Mexico, SmartFish helps fishing communities earn between 20 percent and 200 percent more for their quality, sustainably harvested and traceable catch, both improving fishers' quality of life and the health of Mexico's seas. The social enterprise cuts out the middleman and sells directly to consumers. A CI Ventures investment will support the company's growth from three retail locations to six in Mexico City and Cancun.
- → Biodegradable packaging from seaweed. To help reduce single-use plastic production and pollution, California-based Sway designs biodegradable packaging materials made from seaweed sourced from coastal communities across Latin America, thus creating higher-income opportunities for local farmers. Financing from CI Ventures will enable Sway to complete five pilot projects with major brands and retailers and hire key staff in engineering, supply and sales to prepare for commercial launch at the end of 2022.



To create Fin Finder, local volunteers in Singapore, Conservation International staff and Microsoft volunteers collected thousands of images of shark fins to help "teach" the app to accurately identify a specific species. © Conservation International

NEW 'FIN FINDER' APP AIMS TO HALT ILLEGAL SHARK TRADE

A mobile app developed by Conservation International in partnership with Singapore's National Parks Board, and supported by Microsoft, the Rumah Foundation and other partners, will help governments confiscate illegal shark and ray fins hidden in plain sight. Powered by artificial intelligence, Fin Finder enables customs inspectors to take a photo of fins with their cell phones and identify within seconds if they are from illegally traded species — an important innovation because a third of shark and ray species have been overfished to near extinction in the last 50 years. Since sharks and rays play an important role in maintaining the balance of entire marine ecosystems by keeping other fish populations in check, exploiting endangered species could cripple ocean health, as well as food security for communities that depend on fishing. Currently, Fin Finder is operating in Singapore, and developers intend to expand its reach to other countries to help stop the illegal fin trade worldwide.

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Galápagos has long been known as a living laboratory of evolution. It's also a laboratory for sorting out how humanity can meet its needs while conserving the life-support systems that nature provides. This program shows how we can reduce environmental impacts from human activities while creating new, goodpaying jobs."

Pablo Obregon, Director, Sustainable Tuna Program, Conservation International



Sandra Garcia, sustainable agriculture specialist for Conservation International Ecuador, inspects the juicy tomatoes grown with plant fertilizer made from fish processing waste. © Afuera Producciones

WOMAN-LED INITIATIVE TURNS FISH WASTE INTO PLANT FERTILIZER

Each week, local fisheries in the Galápagos Islands generate approximately 4,500 pounds of fish processing waste, which is subsequently thrown into landfills where it can emit methane and other climate-altering greenhouse gases. To make better use of fish waste and curb its emissions, scientists at Conservation International transformed it into usable products like plant fertilizer — leading to sweeter and juicier vegetables — and protein-rich food for farm animals. Through a new woman-led initiative focused on commercializing fish waste, this effort is creating new jobs in communities that have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for the mothers and daughters of fishers.



Conservation International is supporting Liberia's Environmental Protection Agency to address marine plastic pollution, as part of an international agreement to end the plastic crisis. © Mike Olendo

TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION THAT HARMS LIBERIA'S MANGROVE FORESTS AND FISHERIES

With plastic pollution increasingly harming Liberia's mangrove forests and fisheries. Conservation International's team in Liberia and partners helped raise awareness and galvanize action against problematic plastics through beach cleanups, community engagements and media outreach. We also provided technical support to the government of Liberia to endorse a recent United Nations resolution to forge a global, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution.

COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM COSTA RICA'S LARGEST MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT EVER

Alongside local communities and national authorities, Conservation International has helped restore more than 300 hectares (741 acres) of lost mangroves in the Puntarenas Estuary Wetland, within the Gulf of Nicoya - an important wildlife haven, rest stop for over 20,000 migratory birds and home for over 100 marine species. Thousands of coastal residents depend on this wetland for fisheries, coastal protection and climate resilience. Our experts led research about the marine and freshwater flow of this wetland, the topography and historical land shifts, which informed the design of restoration methods, like channel dredging and soil levelling, to help the area naturally recover to salinity levels suitable for mangrove growth.





The ecological mangrove restoration of the Puntarenas Estuary in Costa Rica is the largest coastal engineering initiative in Central America. To restore hydrological connectivity, nearly 5 kilometers (3 miles) of channels have been excavated or rehabilitated, helping to restore mangroves. © Francisco Pizarro

SPOTLIGHT: PLANET-SAVING SCIENCE



In Colombia, Conservation International is supporting the largest coral restoration effort of its kind in the Americas. © Conservation International/photo by Edgardo Ochoa

GROWING 1 MILLION CORALS IN COLOMBIA

In Colombia, scientists and local community volunteers are hacking away at corals with a special saw — all part of a plan to help restore one of the most biodiverse and important ecosystems on the planet.

Over half a billion people around the world depend on coral reefs for storm protection, food and income, but scientists estimate that 90 percent all the world's reefs could die off in the next five years if we don't slow the pace of planetary warming.

One innovative way to restore damaged coral reefs is a technique called micro fragmentation. With the special saw, corals are broken into smaller pieces — which stimulates the coral tissue to grow 40 times faster than they would in the wild — and then placed in shallow underwater nurseries for about 1 to 1.5 years to grow large enough to be transplanted into larger reefs.

Launched in 2021 by the Colombian government, the "One Million Corals for Colombia" project will cultivate fragments of coral and restore 200 hectares (494 acres) of coral reef by 2023 — the largest effort of its kind in the Americas. The project is led by Conservation International and Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in collaboration with several partners, including local organizations, the national park system and area businesses. To date, more than 430,000 coral fragments are growing in nurseries around Colombia, and over 13,000 have been transplanted to reefs in 12 different areas of the Caribbean and Pacific coasts.

SURFERS LEAD THE WAVE OF SUPPORT FOR OCEAN CONSERVATION

D 2022 In just a few years, the Surf

2019

Flexible seed funding from a generous donor enables Conservation International to join forces with Save The Waves Coalition and form the Surf Conservation Partnership (SCP) to harness the passion of the world's surfers to keep the ocean, and their favorite surf spots, healthy.

2020

The SCP sets out to create a global network of Surf Protected Areas, where world-class waves overlap with the irreplaceable coral reefs, beaches, mangroves and coastal forests that local communities depend on for food and livelihoods.

2021

A study by
Conservation
International,
Save the Waves
Coalition and
our partners
demonstrated that
26 percent of the
world's surf breaks
are in areas with
the most important
biodiversity on
the planet.

In just a few years, the Surf Conservation Partnership has:

- Established 12 locally managed marine areas around high-quality surf breaks in Indonesia by partnering with Konservasi Indonesia, local communities and local governments.
- Launched Central America's first "World Surfing Reserve" in Playa Hermosa, Costa Rica, protecting 16 kilometers (10 miles) of sea turtle nesting beach.
- Collaborated with the World Surf League and its non-profit arm WSL PURE to support surf ecosystem conservation in Indonesia and Costa Rica.
- Supported partners to teach conservation and surfing to over 600 youth in Indonesia, with a focus on gender equity, through surf conservation classes and contests.

Across the globe, more than 85 percent of the world's best surf breaks, like this one in Indonesia, are located in areas that are critically important for marine and coastal conservation. ⊚ iStock.com/freie-kreation

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY, WE ARE EXPANDING PLANET-POSITIVE ECONOMIES

Conservation International is spurring investments from companies and donors that build sustainable supply chains for global commodities, including coffee and palm oil, and reward local fishers, herders and small-scale farmers for producing their goods and services in a way that does not degrade forests and rangelands or pollute freshwater sources.

With partners, we aim to transform 40 million hectares (99 million acres) of globally important lands and waters to a planet-positive model that produces lasting conservation results and improved livelihoods.



The Regenerative Fund for Nature will help restore and protect critical biodiversity and enhance livelihood opportunities through improved market access to the wool industry in South Africa. © Wilderness Foundation/image by Chris Marais

RESTORING LANDS AND LIVELIHOODS THROUGH REGENERATIVE FARMING

In early 2021, Conservation International launched a partnership with luxury goods brand Kering (owner of fashion houses like Gucci and Saint Laurent) to transition 1 million hectares (2.4 million acres) of croplands and rangelands to regenerative agriculture models. Regenerative farming practices, such as rotational grazing or using cover crops to protect the soil, help improve soil health and increase its ability to store carbon.

Within its first year, the Regenerative Fund for Nature supported seven projects engaged in sustainable farming of raw materials like cotton, wool, cashmere and leather, directly benefiting 60,000 people. In the Maluti Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa, for instance, the fund is supporting nine communal grazing associations using regenerative agricultural practices across 11,000 hectares (27,200 acres) of sheep-grazing land. The project will help restore and protect critical biodiversity and enhance livelihood opportunities through improved market access to the wool industry in South Africa — with a special focus on empowering women who predominantly farm sheep but are sorely underrepresented in associations, trainings and auctions.



Rangers in Cambodia's Central Cardamom Mountains National Park were trained on software that allows them to evaluate and improve their monitoring efforts throughout the park. © Jeremy Holden

TRAINING THE RANGERS WHO PROTECT CAMBODIA'S CARDAMOM MOUNTAINS DECREASES DEFORESTATION AND IMPROVES LOCAL LIVELIHOODS

To ensure continued low deforestation rates and improve local livelihoods, Conservation International provided direct support to forest rangers in the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park. Trainings focused on improving the rangers' use of technologies to track their patrols and improve management and monitoring. Since helping to gain official protection for the forest in 2002, Conservation International has supported the Cambodian government to develop the legal frameworks and strategies needed for its effective, long-term conservation. The Central Cardamom Mountains National Park was the first protected area established in Cambodia and maintains significantly lower deforestation rates than the national average, thanks to investments in the people who are committed to protecting it.

SPOTLIGHT: PLANET-SAVING SCIENCE



The Pinocchio Anole (Anolis proboscis) is one of the most threatened lizards in Ecuador and is classified as endangered due to ongoing habitat loss. © Conservation International/photo by Philip Bowles

OUR SCIENTISTS FOUND THAT 20% OF REPTILES FACE EXTINCTION — AND THAT EFFORTS TO SAVE OTHER SPECIES COULD CHANGE THEIR FATE

According to a major multi-year study co-led by Conservation International, over 1,800 species of reptiles - including lizards, snakes, turtles and crocodiles — are at risk of disappearing, mainly due to habitat destruction, urban development and logging. The research also revealed something hopeful: Initiatives to conserve threatened mammals, birds and amphibians and the lands and waters they inhabit also benefit many threatened reptiles. Thus, while urgent and targeted conservation measures specifically for reptiles are still needed, many of the protections we already have in place for other species are a step in the right direction. Take, for example, our mangrove protection project in Cispatá Bay, Colombia; in addition to sequestering nearly 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over 30 years, the project is protecting several threatened species, including the endangered American crocodile, known locally as the needle-nose crocodile.



SPOTLIGHT: INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR CONSERVATION



The Amazon Business Alliance is a platform to promote green growth to improve the livelihoods of Amazonian communities, while decreasing deforestation and degradation of natural resources. © 2017 joloei/Shutterstock

DRIVING INVESTMENT IN INDIGENOUS- AND WOMEN-LED PLANET-POSITIVE BUSINESSES IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

Last year, Conservation International and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Amazon Business Alliance (ABA) to create a new private-sector investment platform for sustainable, proconservation businesses in the Peruvian Amazon. So far, the ABA has allocated \$1 million to four businesses in the coffee, agroforestry, medicinal plant and land restoration sectors. For example, the ABA is supporting Shanantina, a Peru business that exports nuts and oils derived from seeds of the native sacha inchi tree. Shanantina sources the seeds from local smallholder producers, who will also benefit from an ABA grant to expand their agroforestry production systems. The ABA also leveraged \$8.5 million from the Canadian government to expand to more areas of the Peruvian Amazon and fund additional Indigenous- and women-led enterprises. Ultimately, the five-year project seeks to improve the management of 60,000 hectares (148,263 acres) of forest, restore an additional 20,000 hectares (49,421 acres), and support the livelihoods of 10,000 people, by leveraging \$50 million from the private sector and unlocking \$20 million from public funds.



"Be optimistic because we have all the solutions to solve the climate and biodiversity crises at our disposal; and they are good for both the planet and for the world's economies."

Jorge Ahumada, Senior Wildlife Conservation Scientist, Conservation International



Clearing invasive wattle trees and restoring the land to its original condition improves grazing and restores groundwater for people, livestock and wildlife. © Trond Larsen

REMOVING INVASIVE PLANTS, CREATING JOBS AND RESTORING RANGELANDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

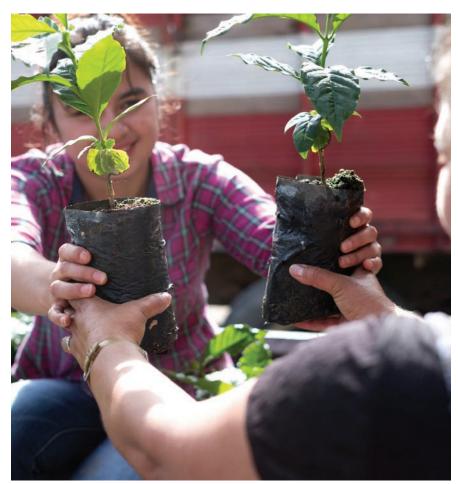
On the Eastern Cape of South Africa, invasive plants like the wattle tree have invaded grasslands and stream banks clogging rivers and eroding soil, reducing the availability of water and vegetation needed by people, livestock and wildlife. A prolific seed producer, the wattle tree is especially difficult to control as seeds can lie dormant for many years before sprouting new plants.

In the Umzimvubu Catchment (an area of land where water collects and moves through it, often bordered by hills or mountains), our team at Conservation South Africa worked with local partners this year to remove the invasive species from 2,310 hectares (5,700 acres) of communal rangelands. This created 770 local jobs, demonstrating how restoring rangeland health can be an avenue for delivering economic benefits to rural communities.

OUR GROWING NETWORK OF PARTNERS IS THE LARGEST COLLABORATIVE EFFORT FOCUSED ON PROMOTING COFFEE SUSTAINABILITY

Now in its seventh year, the Sustainable Coffee Challenge raised record-breaking voluntary donations from members; partnered with the International Coffee Organization to drive landscape-level initiatives in the sector; and launched sector-wide metrics to facilitate aggregated reporting. This year, we added 10 new partners, including Louis Dreyfus Company, one of the top five global coffee traders, raising the number of partners to 170 organizations, the largest collective effort promoting sustainable coffee.

The Sustainable Coffee Challenge, conceived by Conservation International and Starbucks and launched in 2015, unites coffee growers, distributors and consumers to stimulate greater demand for sustainable coffee and make the popular commodity the world's first sustainable agricultural product, as an industry, by 2050. This year, with an uptick in corporate partner interest in climate-related topics, the Challenge launched a knowledge-sharing network called Climate + Nature that provides resources on natural climate solutions and the environmental footprint of growing and distributing coffee.



One marker of "sustainable coffee" is that it contributes to improved income and profitability for the world's 25 million coffee producers, workers and their families. © Starbucks



In a year where the climate and nature crises have been a constant in the news, it has been heartening to see the coffee sector poised for action. More corporate partners are preparing science-based targets to reduce emissions, there's growing curiosity about nature's role in addressing climate change and proposed legislation calls for more stringent due diligence around coffee sourcing. We look forward to encouraging new, ambitious commitments in the coming year and tracking sector progress toward a sustainable future."

Raina Lang, Senior Director of Sustainable Coffee at Conservation International

WITH YOU BY OUR SIDE, WE ARE 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.



The first Amazonia Indigenous Women's Fellowship exchange, held in Quito, Ecuador, in April, sought to promote women-led solutions to challenges faced by Indigenous communities across the Amazon Basin. © César David Martínez

INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEADERS GATHER TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE TO HELP ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE, STRENGTHEN THEIR COMMUNITIES

In Quito, Ecuador, 21 of our 24 Amazonia Indigenous Women's Fellows convened for the first time to connect, exchange experiences and discuss their challenges and achievements as leaders in their territories. With funding from the French government, the Our Future Forests—Amazonia Verde initiative supports the development of women's leadership to conserve their territories, adapt to climate change and strengthen their communities through ancestral knowledge. In June, 28 new Fellows embarked on the one-year program to resolve challenges related to Indigenous economies, gender balance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and more, based on their own solutions.



Women, we mustn't give up.

We must care for our territory, care
for our nature because we rely on it
to live. Without territory there is no
life, no resistance, no women,
no men, no life on the planet."

Carmenza Yucuna of the Yucuna ethnic group in Colombia and an Amazonia Indigenous Women's Fellow



"Find hope in the knowledge that no action is 'too small' or 'local.'
Positive change can grow into something bigger in no time.
And remember that trees are still growing, and forests are still feeding and healing communities around the world."

Dora Samaniego, Program Manager, Conservation International Peru

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR NEGOTIATION SKILLS, UPHOLDING THEIR RIGHTS TO MANAGE AND SAFEGUARD THEIR LANDS

Indigenous peoples and local communities are crucial allies in delivering successful conservation outcomes, yet the lands and waters they manage are under growing pressure from resource extraction, infrastructure buildout and development projects. All too often, communities are forced to sign land- or resource-use agreements with project developers that undermine their rights and limit their ability to sustainably manage their lands and waters.

To help level this power imbalance, Conservation International and partners published an Indigenous Negotiations Resource Guide, which provides technical support, exercises and case study examples at all stages of negotiating land- or resource-use agreements. As one component of a larger program of support to negotiators from Indigenous and local communities, the guide has served as the basis for several negotiations trainings for Indigenous leaders in Guyana and the Philippines, with future workshops planned in Ecuador. With more confident negotiation skills in hand, these communities are voicing their priorities and visions for their lands and livelihoods while upholding their rights to manage and safeguard the nature we all depend on.



An Indigenous Negotiations Resource Guide developed by Conservation International and partners is supporting communities — like the Lewuaso Maasai of northern Kenya — as they negotiate agreements with project developers. © Patricia Dunne

SPOTLIGHT: PLANET-SAVING SCIENCE



The islands of Raja Ampat, Indonesia, are home to three-quarters of a million people, many of whom have ancestral ties to the sea going back thousands of years. © Conservation International/photo by Sterling Zumbrunn

OUR SCIENCE AFFIRMED THAT LOCAL STEWARDSHIP LEADS TO BETTER CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

In the Bird's Head Seascape in Indonesia, Indigenous peoples and local communities depend on fish, and the coral reefs that sustain them, to help meet their basic needs. It turns out, their participation and leadership in the protection of coastal ecosystems leads to better conservation outcomes — including more fish — according to a study published in Science Advances by Conservation International scientists and collaborators.

The analysis sought to describe and explain differences in the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPA), using total quantity of fish as a measure of conservation success. The research concluded that local participation in MPA establishment and management, contextually appropriate rules and enforcement, and national support for local management were key predictors of conservation success. Aggressive and draconian enforcement strategies, by contrast, were associated with less effective MPAs. The findings underscore the pivotal role of local stewardship in the fate of coral reef ecosystems.

SPOTLIGHT: INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR CONSERVATION

THE TUHKA NUT: PROTECTING A LOCAL INCOME SOURCE, GROWING REVENUE CHANNELS AND PROTECTING THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

Deep in the Amazon rainforest of southern Suriname, the Indigenous Alalapadu community believes that if you take care of nature, nature will always take care of you. Since 2017 the community has been protecting 235,000 hectares (580,700 acres) of forest surrounding their village because within it grows their main income source: the Brazil nut tree, locally known as Tuhka.

The community collects the tree's nuts, which are rich in fiber, protein and immunity-building vitamins, and delivers them to the production facility located in their village. They are paid on the spot, the nuts are processed into oil or roasted, then sold to customers via a distributor with help from a local partner organization.

Through our Conservation Stewards Program's conservation agreements approach, Conservation International's team in Suriname has supported the community through the development of business plans, the construction of the production facility, and training on quality control and business administration, in return for their continued commitment to protect the forest.

For the first time, this year a batch of the community-harvested nuts was shipped to Hong Kong, a signal of growing consumer demand for sustainably harvested products that directly support local livelihoods. By moving natural products like Tuhka nuts into new markets and unlocking new revenue sources for local communities, we are demonstrating with our partners how human needs can be met without destroying nature.

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN FELLOW RECOGNIZED WITH A GLOBAL PEACE AWARD



© Jonathan Irish

Josephine Ekiru, a Conservation International Indigenous Women Fellow and Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) Peace Coordinator in Kenya, was awarded the U.S. Institute of Peace Women Building Peace Award, a prestigious honor that recognizes women who are building peace in countries impacted by conflict. As Peace Coordinator for the NRT,

Ekiru brings together Indigenous peoples in Northern and Eastern Kenya to resolve conflict, promote the rights of women and girls, protect wildlife and halt poaching. She also leads a group of peace ambassadors — some of whom are reformed poachers — to nurture peace and protect biodiversity.

"I always desired to have my community and our neighbors co-exist in peace instead of causing pain to each other. This award is a call to women, youth, and men to embrace peace and do what is right. In this world, all we need is inspiration, the award gives us all and especially women an inspiration to not only champion for peace but to be decision makers in our homes and communities while raising children."

Josephine Ekiru

IMPROVING SOCIAL EQUITY IN OCEAN CONSERVATION

In the race to protect at least 30 percent of the ocean by 2030, it is critical to address how conservation decisions are made and who participates in the decisions — and to integrate social equity in all stages of marine protection planning.

Through the Blue Nature Alliance, Conservation International scientists and partners promote ocean conservation practices that are collaborative, people-centered and locally led. In a new paper, they identified six key ways governments, non-governmental organizations and funders can better integrate social equity into their policies, programs and investments:

- acknowledge and respect the dignity of diverse peoples
- foster participation and good governance
- maximize benefits and minimize burdens for local populations
- champion and support local involvement and leadership
- ensure the efficacy of conservation actions
- address the barriers to and the roots of inequity in conservation

This pivotal resource was one of nine science papers published this year through the Blue Nature Alliance, which is investing in research, tool development and learning opportunities to advance science and knowledge of large-scale ocean conservation.

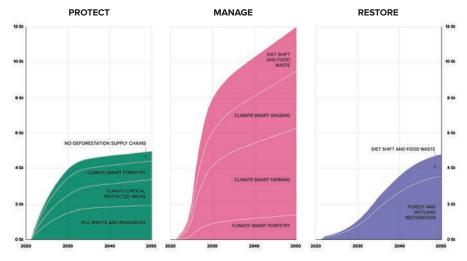
LOOKING AHEAD

Thanks to your loyalty, encouragement and generosity, we will continue to lead the charge to heal our planet so we can protect our future. Here's a snapshot of initiatives we'll be working on in the coming year with our community of partners.

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND BLUEPRINT FOR MAXIMIZING NATURE'S ROLE IN TACKLING GLOBAL WARMING

"The Exponential Roadmap for Natural Climate Solutions," announced at NY Climate Week 2022, outlines the actions needed to boost nature's role as a force for stabilizing the climate. By improving agricultural and forestry practices to avoid carbon emissions, and by increasing the ability of soils and plants to absorb and store carbon, the land sector can reach net zero emissions by 2030 — while also supporting biodiversity, food security and local economies.

This research has wide-reaching implications for policymakers, the financial community and business leaders, including those in the agriculture, food and beverage and even retail industries — as well as for climate activists and sustainability advocates. In the study, scientists from Conservation International and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research found that over 80 percent of the climate mitigation opportunity from the land sector in the next decade comes from transforming food systems and preventing deforestation associated with them. The report is the first to detail a timeline for when, how, where and who within the agriculture, forestry, conservation and restoration sectors can maximize the potential of natural climate solutions.





To keep the 'safe' climate limit of 1.5°C warming within reach, we need major investments in natural climate solutions. These solutions aren't reliant on hypothetical technologies or risky geoengineering. In most cases, it's about rapidly scaling practices that have been known for centuries."

Johan Rockström,

Conservation International chief scientist and director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research



A new forum will ensure that decisions made at the international and national levels include and amplify the voices, policy priorities and worldviews of Afro-descendant communities across the Americas. © Robin Moore

PROMOTING LEADERSHIP OF AFRO-DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS TO LEAD ON CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY CRISES

In Afro-descendant communities across the Americas and the Caribbean, the climate crisis looms large. Over the past decade, an uptick in extreme weather events has damaged their homes, crippled food and water supplies and disrupted livelihoods from Colombia to the Carolinas.

These communities also hold the key to protecting the environmentally important ecosystems in which they live. What was originally an effort to distance themselves from colonialism and the slave trade has now positioned them to lead solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises. Their perspectives inform the interconnected issues of environmental justice, racial inequities and socioeconomic exclusion that are exacerbated by the climate crisis.

Alongside Afro-descendant leaders and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Conservation International launched the Afro-InterAmerican Forum on Climate Change at the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow to amplify the voices, visibility and influence of underrepresented Afrodescendant communities at the highest levels of climate change policy.

Over the next year, Conservation International will: recruit a Social Inclusion Fellow who will build on the Forum's vision to develop a roadmap and expand partnerships; work with country programs and partners to complete a map of Afro communities and their relationships to carbon-rich ecosystems; and assess opportunities for scaling natural climate solutions.

SUPPORTING SAMOA'S PLAN TO PROTECT 30% OF ITS OCEAN AREA

Earlier this year, Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment unveiled its "SOS" for the ocean: the Samoa Ocean Strategy. The island nation with its vast ocean and marine resources — plans to protect 30 percent and sustainably manage 100 percent of its waters by 2030. The SOS provides ocean management solutions that enhance ocean stewardship and ensure the cultural and economic values that Samoans derive from their 120,000-square-kilometer (46,300-square-mile) ocean are preserved for generations to come. Conservation International, the Blue Prosperity Coalition and other local, regional and international partners will support implementation of the SOS, with a focus on providing marine spatial planning, sustainable fisheries management and further developing a blue economy for community livelihoods.





Samoa is one of several nations to commit to increasing the protection and sustainable use of the ocean, based on scientific research and policy recommendations from Conservation International experts. Photos (top to bottom): © Stuart Chape; © Conservation International/photo by John Martin



HERE ARE A FEW THINGS WE WANT YOU TO KNOW:



Generous and visionary philanthropists make our work possible and enable us to leverage public and corporate funding, tripling the impact of each flexible philanthropic dollar we receive.



We have a world-class, **highly engaged board of directors**, many of whom have spent decades committed to advancing our cause.



At least 30% of our annual budget is granted to partners and local communities. We have the tools and systems to get funding to them quickly, build their capacity and help monitor results.



Research published by Conservation International scientists is cited more often than that of any other U.S. conservation organization and many leading universities.



Of our global field staff, **97% are from the various** communities, ethnicities and cultures where we operate.



We put people at the center of our work, and we respect and include the people who live closest to nature.



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THANK YOU.

You made so much possible this year.

Behind every success story — the groundbreaking research, the vast areas of nature protected and restored, the people benefiting from more sustainable livelihoods — is your dedication and passion.

Thank you for your commitment to nature and our shared future.

We are honored to have you by our side.



On the Cover: For one family in southeast Kenya, healthier rangelands mean more food, both for them and their livestock, a steadier income and better water quality. For all of us, restoring grasslands and savannahs means more carbon stored in the soil and, in turn, a more stable climate. In the Chyulu Hills, Conservation International works with local partners and Maasai communities to manage sustainable grazing plans, build native grass seed banks and dig rainwater-catching holes — just some of the ways we are improving people's lives through the care and protection of nature.