



field programs:

protecting
nature for
the benefit
of people
worldwide



ecosystem services are the tangible benefits—both goods and services—that people receive from nature

Every person deserves to live in a healthy and prosperous world—one in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth. To realize this vision, we need a healthy environment that provides the essential services—a stable climate, fresh water, healthy soils and reliable food—upon which we all depend.

While the prevailing model of global economic development has the potential to lift so many out of poverty, too often it destroys natural ecosystems and threatens biodiversity that we need to ensure our own and our children's well-being.

By managing our natural resources in a smarter, more sustainable way, we can create a development path that will lead us to future prosperity.

healthy ecosystems + human well-being

Conservation International (CI) implements field programs that demonstrate how conserving and valuing nature results in positive impacts for people. Field programs provide lessons, insights and successes that are scaled-up and amplified through innovative policies, new economic opportunities, capacity building and communication efforts.

The conservation of biodiversity is an essential component of our field programs. Species are the building blocks of ecosystems from which we derive so many benefits, therefore we must preserve biodiversity in order to secure our own future.

human well-being

ecosystem services

healthy ecosystems

(supported by biodiversity)

CI works with societies to secure nature's essential services that flow from healthy ecosystems to meet both current and future needs.



our strategy

CI achieves success in specific places and then scales up those successes for broad-level impact.

Field programs are where we demonstrate that economic and social development must rely on the preservation of natural ecosystems. They are central to demonstrating that social and economic benefits do not need to come at the expense of nature. Rather, nature is fundamentally essential to future prosperity. For example, in Brazil we are demonstrating that strategic management of marine areas can benefit local fishermen and provide a tourism attraction upon which the local economy is built. We are also demonstrating this in Madagascar by using carbon markets to support local efforts to conserve tropical forests. These efforts are significant because they are using science to inform natural resource decisions, which in turn are translated into tangible benefits for people.

Field-level successes are amplified through influencing policies, engaging markets and increasing awareness and knowledge. For instance, we are using field-level results in Guatemala to advocate for improved national protected area policy frameworks. We are also working with a premium bottled water corporation in Fiji to develop sustainable financing for tropical forest conservation and provide benefits for local people.

broad-level impact

Field successes are amplified through influencing policy, engaging markets and increasing awareness and knowledge.

field demonstration







Policies and market conditions that value nature enable us to scale-up our impact through improving and multiplying field demonstrations.

where we work

CI develops field demonstrations in specific geographies where the relationship among healthy ecosystems, ecosystem services and human well-being can be maximized. The approaches implemented in these areas are informed by cutting-edge science, and the results benefit people. Worldwide, CI is working directly in 31 countries and supporting work through partners in 42 additional countries.

Through targeted investments, CI and a network of partners demonstrate that preserving natural ecosystems and biodiversity is vital to successful sustainable development. We do this by showing how environmental policy and governance, innovative market and incentive mechanisms for protecting biodiversity and engaged civil society groups are essential for sustainable social and economic development.

map key:

	CI headquarters		country with CI field demonstrations
	CI office		country with CI investments via partners
	seascape / marine program		country with CI field demonstrations and CI investments via partners



CI focuses on **six key initiatives to ensure human well-being**



Climate security is the presence of a natural and desirable climate locally, regionally and globally that is resilient to negative impacts of human activity. To achieve climate security, we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly through the protection of forests and other natural ecosystems, sequester and maintain stocks of carbon through integrated climate and land-use actions such as reforestation, agricultural mitigation and responsible biofuel production, and we must enable human and natural communities to adapt to climate change through ecosystem based approaches.



Freshwater security is the reliable availability and quality of fresh water at the times and places where it is needed to meet the needs of people and other life on Earth. To achieve water security, CI promotes the conservation of freshwater landscapes from “ridge to reef” through an approach comprising integrated watershed management, protection of upstream natural ecosystems and conservation of downstream habitats and freshwater services.



Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. CI supports food security by ensuring wild harvests, conserving the ability of ecosystems to support productivity in agricultural areas, and resolving unsustainable resource and land use practices.



Health security exists when people are protected from, prepared for and resilient to major health threats. To support health security, CI focuses on valuing natural ecosystems and ecosystem services in terms of health costs and vulnerability to natural disasters, disease emergence, disease incidence and transmission and nature’s known and undiscovered contributions to medicine.



Cultural services refers to the fundamental role that landscapes, seascapes and diverse species have played in science, arts, recreation and religion. To help secure these services and the economic benefits they provide, CI ensures that cultural services are accounted for in development strategies and that the insight and input of indigenous and local communities are incorporated in such plans.



Species contributions refers to the function fulfilled by all life forms as the building blocks upon which everything depends. CI’s conservation efforts include species and habitat conservation as a means for safeguarding the current and future benefits natural systems provide to people.



CONSERVATION
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At Conservation International we are committed to restoring and maintaining the world's natural systems. Through scientific rigor, creative thinking and aggressive action, we are proving that species can be saved, landscapes can be protected and people can thrive.

OUR vision

We imagine a healthy, prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature, our global biodiversity, for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth.

OUR mission

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.

