

Office of Investments  
**The Nature Conservancy:  
Initiatives & Projects**

December 2023

# Overview

**01** Office of Investments

---

**02** Conservation Milestones

---

**03** TNC Priorities

---

**04** 2030 Goals

---

**05** Donations Put to Work

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# Office of Investments

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The Nature Conservancy has total assets of \$9B of which the Office of Investments is responsible for managing approximately \$4B, comprised of endowment and other long-term investments.



**\$4B** Total Long-Term Portfolio Assets



**5.25%** Annual Payout



**10-15%** Support towards TNC's Annual Operating Budget



# Office of Investments



## Investment Excellence

We partner with world-class investment managers to generate outsized returns over a long-term horizon. In the last two decades, over \$1B has been paid out in support of TNC's conservation efforts.



## Mission Alignment

We exclude certain investments from our portfolio when deemed inconsistent with TNC's mission, and proactively invest in companies with positive environmental, social and ethical benefits.

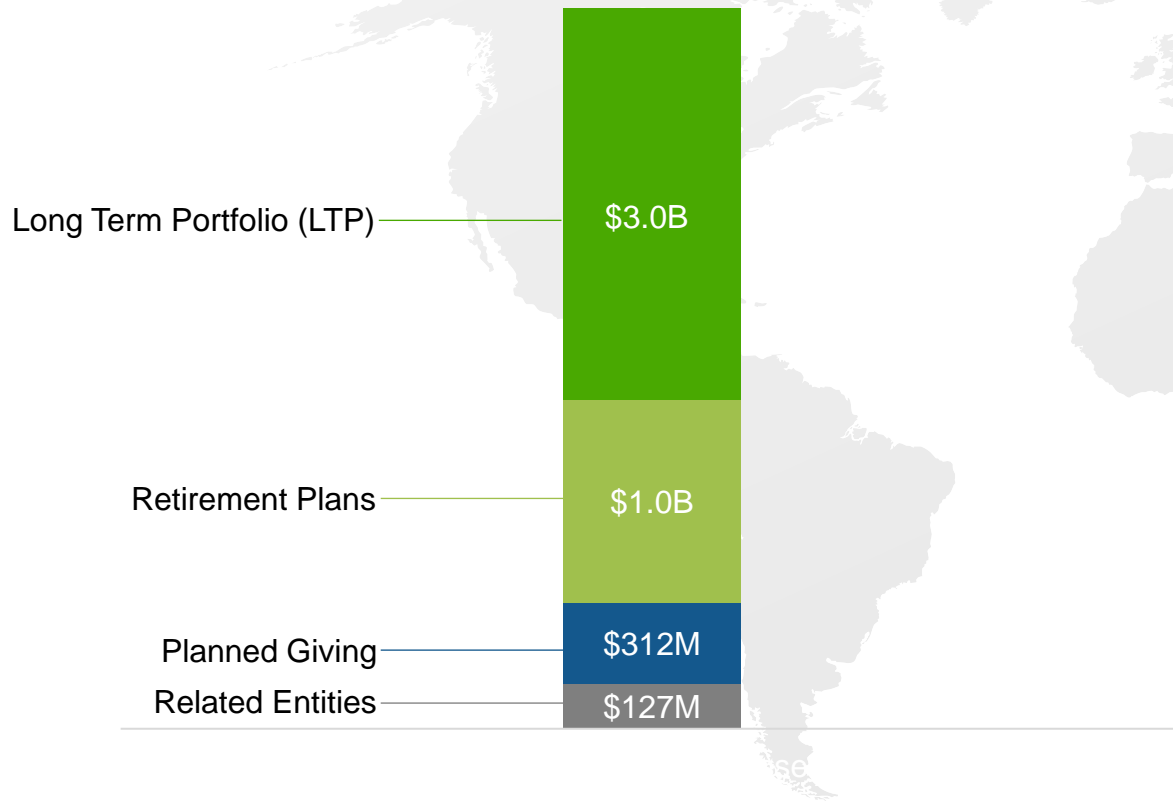


## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice

We will strive to ensure that our investment managers and portfolio companies reflect the cultural, gender and racial diversity of the communities where we conduct our conservation work.

# TNC Global Investment Assets

## \$4.4B Under IC Oversight



## Long Term Portfolio

Managed as a single pool, the LTP supports TNC's global conservation priorities and operating budget. Includes various endowments and long-term working capital. Primary focus of Office of Investments (OOI) and Investment Committee (IC)

## Retirement Plans

US and International Defined Contribution (DC) retirement plans. At almost \$1B, the US represents most of these assets. International plans include Europe (17 countries), South America, Mexico, Africa, China and Indonesia

## Planned Giving

Various forms of life income gifts that offer lifetime payouts and tax benefits to donors and investment proceeds to TNC. Includes Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs), Charitable Gifts Annuity (CGAs) and Pooled Income Funds (PIFs)

## Related Entities

Investment assets of TNC related entities where TNC acts as trustee with investment oversight. These include the Ecological Trust of Panama and various Blue Bond endowments (Belize and Barbados)



# Conservation Milestones

# Conservation Across Our World

The Nature Conservancy is tackling the dual threats of accelerated climate change and unprecedented biodiversity loss. Science determines where we focus, and equity guides how we achieve lasting results. We maximize our ability to affect change by bringing together real-world solutions, policy expertise, sustainable financing and collaborative partnerships.

## By The Numbers\*



**70+**

We impact conservation in over 70 countries and territories.



**100+**

We operate more than 100 marine conservation projects.



**900+**

We have more than 900 scientists and scientific support staff.



**125M+**

We have protected more than 125 million acres of land.



# TNC Throughout The Years

**The Nature Conservancy is officially launched on Christmas Eve 1954.**

*Neighbors of a 60-acre forest in New York were given an ultimatum: bid on the wooded ravine or see it developed.*

**During these pivotal years, TNC embraces conservation work at broader scales.**

*Conservation by Design, an eco-regional approach for setting priorities and taking action to conserve biodiversity, is developed.*

**TNC is taking bold steps to amplify and accelerate the work to address climate change and food security.**

*TNC develops a 50-State Climate Change Strategy to adapt local climate actions.*

1950-1969

1970-1989

1990-1999

2000-2009

2010-2019

2020-Present

**Growing in size and scope and driven by science, TNC expands to international conservation.**

*TNC's International Conservation Program is launched in Latin America.*

**TNC brings new ideas to challenges and plays a role in several transformative conservation land transactions.**

*TNC's first water fund is established in Quito, Ecuador. Users pay into the fund for clean water, the funds pay for forest conservation.*

**TNC is implementing its biggest, most ambitious plans to achieve lasting results, guided by science and equity.**



# TNC Priorities



# TNC Priorities

The climate and biodiversity crises are the challenges of our lives. TNC's programmatic work to address these challenges is split into three main priorities: **Protect Oceans, Lands, and Fresh Water**, **Tackle Climate Change**, and **Provide Food & Water Sustainably**. Most teams on the ground fall under one of these broader strategies.

***By working together, we are overcoming barriers to the solutions our planet needs.***

# Priorities: Protect, Tackle, and Provide



## Global Protect Oceans, Lands & Fresh Water

We are facing two existential crises: **climate change** and **rapid biodiversity loss**. Reversing these crises requires **protecting** and **sustainably managing** our oceans, lands, and fresh water.



## Tackle Climate Change

**Climate change is here now.** We can limit further warming and the dangers it poses – **if we act now**. Every fraction of a degree matters.



## Provide Food and Water Sustainably

Food demand is expected to **increase by more than 50%** in just the next 30 years as the world's population continues to grow.



# TNC 2030 Goals

# The Nature Conservancy | 2030 Goals

We are facing the biggest and most complex challenges of our lives. That calls for the biggest, most ambitious plans – for people and nature.

## WHY

Our planet faces the interconnected crises of rapid climate change and biodiversity loss. We have years, not decades, to address these existential threats.



### CLIMATE CHANGE

Three quarters of the carbon dioxide emissions driven by humans have occurred since 1950.



### BIODIVERSITY LOSS

There has been nearly a 70% average decline of birds, amphibians, mammals, fish and reptiles since 1970.



Guided by science, we **identify** the most critical places for carbon storage and biodiversity.



In those places, we **develop strategies and test projects** in deep collaboration with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, governments, and other partners.



Our rigorous approach to **monitoring, evaluating, and learning** allows us to identify the on-the-ground projects that help us achieve tangible, lasting results.



We take these learnings to our global network of colleagues and partners to **replicate our best work** in more places.



By investing locally, collaborating, and demonstrating results, we can access more corporate, financial, and government partners to advance policies and practices to **achieve systems change** and drive more resources towards our climate and biodiversity goals.

# The Nature Conservancy | 2030 Goals



**3 Gt**  
CO<sub>2</sub>e AVOIDED  
or SEQUESTERED



**100M**  
PEOPLE BENEFITED



**45M**  
PEOPLE  
SUPPORTED



**1M**  
KM OF RIVERS  
CONSERVED



**650M**  
HECTARES  
CONSERVED



**4B**  
HECTARES  
CONSERVED

**30M**

HA OF LAKES &  
WETLANDS  
CONSERVED



# Reduce or Store CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

When people think of cities, they often think of just the built environment. But cities can and should be places for nature to thrive as well—not just for wildlife, but for the benefit of people too.

As Australian cities grow larger, they face new challenges including excessive heat, water scarcity, congestion and the loss of biodiversity.

We're excited about our project to develop the [Melbourne Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy](#).



# Benefit People on Front Lines

Ensuring women and girls have equal access to the knowledge they need to uplift their communities is critical to finding lasting solutions for people and the planet.

Mangroves buffer against storms, prevent coastal erosion and absorb about four times more carbon than their terrestrial counterparts. Yet globally, mangroves face threats. In both Kenya and Papua New Guinea, TNC is supporting women's groups to learn about the value of mangrove forests and how to safeguard them.

In [Papua New Guinea](#), TNC and Mangoro Market Meri, or “Mangroves, Women and Markets,” have built support for sustainable harvests of shellfish, new local businesses and exploring new opportunities in climate mitigation.

Across the world in [Kenya](#), the members of the Mtangawanda Women's Association plant and restore mangrove forests with technical support from TNC and local partners.





## Conserve Lands

Mongolia's vast, 108,000-square-mile Eastern Steppe—10 times larger than Africa's iconic Serengeti—is a land of grass, great migrations and tremendous opportunity.

A large share of those lands have not been protected from development, however that is changing, as Mongolia has pledged to protect 30% of its lands by 2030. The Mongolian government is working with TNC to meet this goal through a powerful new collaborative conservation venture called [Enduring Earth](#).

Through broad partnerships, Enduring Earth brings local communities together with governments, conservation groups, and foundations. In Mongolia, TNC and its partners are developing a \$198 million initiative to help the country protect 35 million acres and deepen support for conservation on an additional 69 million acres of existing protected areas.

This project in Mongolia is just one of 20 planned for priority conservation regions around the world. In every case, Enduring Earth ensures lasting conservation commitments at the biggest possible scale.

# Conserve Oceans

**Blue Bonds** are a powerful debt conversion tool nations can use to finance ambitious conservation commitments at an unprecedented scale.

A recent blue bond project will unlock \$50 million to help **Barbados** protect up to 30% of its marine ecosystem.

In 2021, **Belize** became the first country in the Americas to finalize a debt conversion for ocean conservation.

TNC's first blue bond project protected 40,000 square kilometers as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in **Seychelles**.





# Conserve Fresh Water

Science published in 2021 found that fewer than 20% of the world's free-flowing rivers are safe from the pressures of development.

As The Nature Conservancy builds a global strategy to help governments and communities protect freshwater systems, new efforts in the [Balkan region of Eastern Europe](#) are proving successful. The Vezišnica River, one of the healthiest tributaries to the Čehotina River in Montenegro, is flowing freely once again after crews removed three illegal dams in 2021.

With hundreds of new dams planned in this region, TNC is advocating for smart renewable energy and river protections. Thanks to efforts with partner WWF Adria and local communities, the Krupa River in Croatia and Zeta River in Montenegro now have permanent protections.

Now, TNC is talking with officials in Gabon, the Amazon region and elsewhere to prevent declines in freshwater systems and protect the Earth's fragile freshwater biodiversity.

# Support Local Stewards

In Nicaragua, TNC teamed up with LALA Group, the region's largest dairy company, to make farms more sustainable by providing farmers with technical and financial assistance to transform typical small-plot grass pastures with plantings of diverse shrubs and trees. The mix offers shade, restores water sources, locks in soil nutrients, supports biodiversity and ensures a longer grazing season. It also means more volume and higher-quality milk—and better incomes.

This [Resilient Central America](#) project has introduced these agroforestry pasture systems on 36 model farms and trained 700 farmers. And what has proved successful in the Nicaragua countryside is now reaching farms in Mexico and elsewhere in Central America.





# Donations Put to Work

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Thanks to TNC's generous donors' support, we have made great progress towards our conservation goals.



## SCALING NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS GLOBALLY

A **\$100M gift from the Bezos Earth Fund** will further enable TNC and our partners to focus on what nature can do to help us tackle climate change. Specifically, the Bezos Earth Fund will support the following three initiatives:

- **Catalyzing Natural Climate Solutions**
- **A Promising Solution in Northwest India's Soil**
- **Protecting Living Carbon Reserves in The Emerald Edge**



## CONSERVING 160 ACRES OF THE MISSOURI RIVER

Thanks to a generous donation, **more than 160 acres along the Missouri River in Boone County** will become a place for the public to connect to the state's unique landscapes as well as **a site for research and conservation**. TNC will conduct **high-quality restoration of natural habitats** across the property, likely to include stabilizing the riverbank with natural materials and plantings, rejuvenating onsite wetlands, and planting native vegetation.



## RESTORING ENDANGERED REEFS

TNC is **restoring oyster reefs in Hong Kong** to **improve water quality, increase local fish production, and educate the public** about the importance of these marine habitats. With **support from J.P. Morgan** and in **partnership with the Swire Institute of Marine Science (SWIMS)** of The University of Hong Kong, we have embarked on an ambitious effort to quantify oyster reef's critical ecological benefits and to restore shellfish reefs in Deep Bay, north western Hong Kong.

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## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BASED FRESH WATER CONSERVATION

A grant from an anonymous private foundation will **protect critically important freshwater ecosystems in Africa and South America** in four priority geographies. Funds will enable grantees and their community partners to actively **sustain freshwater ecosystems, strengthen their ability to co-manage** community-led inland fisheries and watershed protection efforts, and **improve community well-being** through sustainable fishing, farming, ecotourism and watershed management income streams.



## EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN TANZANIA

Together with partners, we are **supporting Indigenous communities in securing formal tenure to land** that they own communally. To date, we have **stitched together more than 3.6 million acres of savanna** habitat under conservation agreements. A new award of more than **\$5.6 million from the U.K. government will enable us to scale up proven models, accelerate progress, and pilot promising strategies**, such as soil carbon programs that can generate sustainable funding for conservation and local people.



## INNOVATING CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS

**TNC and the BTG Pactual Timberland Investment Group (TIG)**, one of the world's largest timberland investment managers, are joining forces to **leverage the potential of sustainably managed forests** across the United States to address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. Through a first-of-its-kind agreement, the initiative will seek to **enhance climate action and conservation outcomes** on more than **\$850 million** out of TIG's \$4 billion global timberland portfolio.



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## ACCELERATING CLIMATE ADAPTATION THROUGH NATURE

TNC's **Urban Greening Program** in Germany is working to **reduce climate change risk while enhancing climate resiliency and adaptation** by **increasing biodiversity, reducing the heat island effect, and improving stormwater management** to create more livable and sustainable communities in cities like Berlin. The program received **€3.75 million from the online retailer Amazon**, the first project outside the United States to be funded through its \$100 million Right Now Climate Fund.



## CONSERVING BISON ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

We expanded our **20 years of bison conservation**, spanning **12 TNC preserves** across North America, into a new bison program at Great Sand Dunes National Park through a **partnership with the National Park Service**.



## PLANTING TREES TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

In West Virginia alone, **we're planting more than 400,000 native trees** that help capture carbon. It's part of our larger goal here to **protect at least 100,000 acres of Appalachian forests**—twice the size of Acadia National Park—in the next few years.

# For more information, please contact



[www.nature.org/investments](http://www.nature.org/investments)



[investments@tnc.org](mailto:investments@tnc.org)



4245 Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203