

GLOBAL CONSERVATION FUND

Portfolio Highlights



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About the Global Conservation Fund

The Global Conservation Fund (GCF) finances the creation, expansion and long-term management of protected areas.

GCF has enabled Conservation International (CI) field programs and more than 40 partners to ensure protection for more than 79 million hectares (195 million acres) of the most threatened and biologically important land and seascapes.

GCF is part of CI's Conservation Funding Division, which catalyzes effective conservation at a global scale by enabling nongovernmental organizations and private sector partners to engage in and benefit from biodiversity conservation.



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GCF support is helping the Kayapó Indigenous People of Brazil to protect their rich land in ways that will also help ensure the long-term physical, social, and cultural security of the Kayapó.

Bahia de los Angeles Biosphere Reserve

An ocean oasis in the Gulf of California, the Bahía de los Ángeles Biosphere Reserve is one of the most spectacular and biologically significant marine sites in the world. Its waters provide vital resources for the local community, as well as habitat for unique and threatened species such as marine turtles, whale sharks, and humpback and blue whales.

The reserve covers 387,956 hectares (956,297 acres) of coastal, marine and terrestrial island ecosystems off the east coast of the Mexican state of Baja California. The nongovernmental organization Pronatura Noroeste, Mexico's National Commission for Protected Areas, the Global Conservation Fund (GCF) and other partners supported the reserve's creation in 2007. Extensive consultations about the proposed reserve with fishers, fishing and tourism businesses, landowners and other local stakeholders also marked a milestone for the country.

GCF subsequently joined with other donors and Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (the Mexican Nature Conservation Fund) to design an endowment fund that will support the area's protection in the long term. GCF contributed \$1 million to this fund, which was matched by a diverse group of partners to capitalize the fund at \$2 million. In addition to covering monitoring and other annual management costs for the area, the Bahia Fund will support sustainable fisheries, tourism and other activities.

Kayapó Indigenous Territory

At 10.5 million hectares (25.9 million acres), the Kayapó Indigenous Territories is by far the largest tract of tropical forest in the world under protection. The ability of the 5,000 Kayapó Indigenous People of Brazil to control access to their land and rich natural resources in the southeastern Amazon ensures not only the ecological integrity of the area, but also the long-term physical, social and cultural security of the Kayapó people.

At the invitation of Kayapó communities, CI-Brazil with GCF support is providing the Kayapó with the equipment and finances necessary to manage their vast tract of legally ratified territory for conservation and sustainable development. The project includes a surveillance program by local Kayapó organizations in collaboration with the government Indian Agency that is monitoring 1,600 kilometers or nearly 1,000 miles of frontier border. This improved surveillance has resulted in a greatly decreased incidence of invasion by ranchers, colonists, fishermen, hunters and non-Indian Brazil nut collectors, especially in the northeast.

The program also includes development of a \$10 million endowment fund to provide annual revenue for patrols, training and equipment that will enable the Kayapó to monitor and protect their forests in the long term. GCF has committed \$2.5 million in capital for the fund, as well as the technical expertise to help design and establish it.

Phoenix Islands Protected Area

The Kiribati government became a global leader in marine conservation in 2008 by establishing the world's largest marine protected area – a California-sized ocean wilderness of coral reefs and rich fish populations threatened by over-fishing and climate change. With eight atolls



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The new Phoenix Islands Protected Area shelters a coral archipelago with abundant marine and bird life.

and two submerged reef systems located between Hawaii and Fiji in the Central Pacific, the 410,500-square-kilometer (158,494-square-mile) Phoenix Islands Protected Area protects a coral archipelago with abundant marine and bird life and is the first protected area in the region with deep-sea habitat, including underwater mountains.

Kiribati and the New England Aquarium developed the new protected area over several years of joint scientific research and discussions, with funding and technical assistance from GCF and, more recently, the CI Pacific Islands Program. The design allows for subsistence fishing by communities and sustainable development in designated zones.

The protection of the Phoenix Islands and surrounding waters demonstrates the government's commitment to conservation and to the partnership formed to design and manage the area. To ensure that this important commitment lasts in perpetuity, GCF, the Aquarium and other partners also are developing an endowment to cover the recurring management costs for the area and to compensate the government for lost commercial fishing revenue.

San Rafael Conservation Area

San Rafael is located at the heart of Paraguay's most important remaining tract of Atlantic Forest. The area is part of the highly threatened and fragmented Upper Parana Atlantic Forest, which spans the borders of Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. San Rafael had been designated a national park in 1992, but remained a park on paper only, with 55 different private landowners who had not been consulted on the park's creation and with heavy encroachment continuing every year.

Guyra Paraguay and its partners working in San Rafael have put in place a bold plan to protect this treasure, including purchasing and consolidating the most important forested properties. Among the results to date supported in part by GCF is the purchase of six parcels of key forested land that now form the privately owned and managed San Rafael Conservation Area.

The 6,700 hectares (16,556 acres) of the San Rafael Conservation Area protect dozens of unique and globally threatened species as well as the upper watershed of the Tebicuary River, one of the larger tributaries of the Paraguay River. San Rafael is also important for the survival of the Mbyá-Guaraní culture. An estimated 2,000 Mbyá-Guaraní survive within San Rafael through a combination of small-scale agriculture with traditional hunting and gathering of natural resources.

GCF is now supporting the development and capitalization of the San Rafael Fund for Biodiversity Conservation, which will be managed by Guyra Paraguay to cover the costs of protecting this important area for the long term.