

The Nature Conservancy

Creating a Sustainable Planet for a Better Tomorrow



Award
2019 LUI Che Woo Prize - Sustainability Prize

Who is The Nature Conservancy?

Saving nature – for the benefit of people and for its own intrinsic value – requires hard choices on how to best utilise limited resources. Founded at its grassroots in the United States in 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global conservation nonprofit organisation dedicated to building a world where people and nature can thrive.



Guided by a science-based and collaborative approach to drive transformational change on a global scale, TNC creates sustainable, innovative and on-the-ground solutions to the world's toughest environmental challenges for tangible and lasting results.

Their Model

The world is at a critical turning point for nature. TNC employs 400 scientists to set both long-term and near-term goals for conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Its model is strengthened by local and global partnerships with a focus on evidence-based, pragmatic solutions to influence global decision-makers.

The Nature Conservancy in Numbers



400
TNC
SCIENTISTS
LEADING THE WORK



100
MAJOR GLOBAL CITIES
INSPIRED
TO INVEST IN
NATURAL SOLUTIONS

8,000 KM
RIVERS

PRESERVED



100 MARINE
RESTORATION SITES

ESTABLISHED



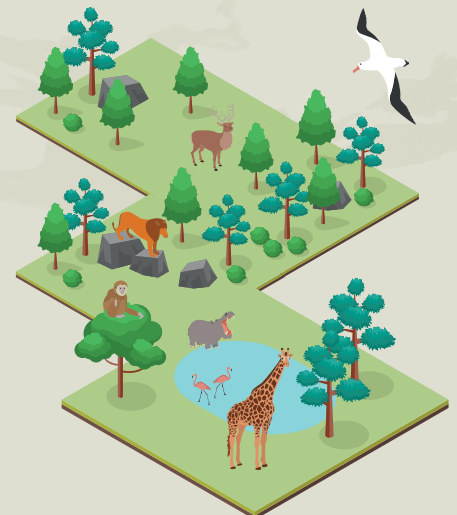
2 BILLION
TONS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

REDUCED

ANNUALLY THROUGH WORK WITH PARTNERS

50 MILLION
HECTARES OF LAND

PROTECTED



Key Priorities



TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

TNC focuses on holistic solutions that match the urgency of this crisis; from restoring forests to working towards a clean energy future.

In China, TNC has implemented almost 11,000 hectares of forest carbon-offset projects and planted an estimated 24 million tree seedlings with the potential to sequester 2.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.



An elderly farmer in Minzhu Village, Sichuan Province, working in her garden.
© Nick Hall



PROVIDE FOOD & WATER SUSTAINABLY

TNC is fostering technology innovations, collaborating with communities on efficient resource use and promoting sustainability policies.

Globally, TNC has established over 30 water funds as an investment tool to protect upstream lands for downstream water users. TNC also developed FishFace, an advanced image-recognition software application that promotes sustainable fisheries practices in the Pacific.



FishFace image-recognition technology being used to track fisheries' catch.
© Ed Wray



PROTECT LAND & WATER

Working with governments, corporations and local partners, TNC aims to protect and restore nature at a scale that matters.

TNC helped negotiate a debt-for-nature deal to offset a portion of the Seychelles' national debt into a US\$22 million investment in conservation.



TNC NatureVest gathered impact capital and grants to help Seychelles restructure its debt towards conservation efforts.
© Jason Houston



DESIGNING CITIES WITH NATURE

Building the case for support, TNC is helping to influence the cities of tomorrow to be resilient, healthy and livable.

TNC's recent Nature in the Urban Century report highlighted the impact and habitat loss of urban growth that could threaten 290,000 km² of natural habitat in the next two decades.



A deer rests on the side of the road along Highway 49 in Nevada.
© James Folder

Conservation in Hong Kong: Shellfish Reefs

Oysters benefit their environment; providing habitat for fish, improving water quality and stabilising shorelines. However, overharvesting and coastal development have destroyed much of Hong Kong's shellfish reefs, jeopardising local livelihoods and the marine environment. In 2018, TNC launched their first oyster restoration pilot project in Deep Bay to evaluate local oyster reefs' ecological benefits and develop restorative oyster aquaculture.

In 2019, TNC is working with local officials and partners to establish the first permanent Hong Kong Oyster Reefs Exhibit at Ap Tsai Hang in Pak Nai. The exhibit highlights the 700-year-old oyster farming history of Deep Bay as well as scientific information on oysters and the many benefits they provide.



Building pilot reefs in Lau Fau Shan, Deep Bay.
© Kyle Obermann