



SAVING NATURE **SERVING** PEOPLE

With the Power of Numbers



OUR VISION

We can have prosperous economies and a living planet. Healthy forests, rivers and oceans can coexist with the needs of people. In fact, achieving this balance is more urgent than ever. But to get there we need to forge the smartest, most economically realistic strategies for conservation. That is what Conservation Strategy Fund does. Founded in 1998, CSF helps local environmentalists around the world use economics to show the value of nature, avoid senseless destruction of resources, and share nature's benefits more equitably. We do it with a unique combination of dynamic economics training and applied field studies.

All of our achievements, including the highlights listed on this timeline, have been made possible by the hard work of our many partners, alumni and friends, who are too numerous to mention here. We salute all of you!



TRAINING + ANALYSIS = 1.7 MILLION ACRES SAVED

Imagine a place where crystal clear rivers lap at sand dunes. Rare flowers sprout from a desert full of water. And people weave wires of golden grass into exquisite baskets. This is the Jalapão, a part of Brazil where two great ecosystems—Cerrado and Caatinga—overlap and create a third one full of unique life. Three students in CSF's first course in Brazil, Wilson Cabral de Sousa Junior, Fani Mamede and Paulo Garcia, joined with CSF and Conservation International in a study of the Jalapão, which was threatened by a massive water diversion scheme. They discovered its financial losses would be enormous, which helped government officials decide to **set aside 1.7 million acres** for permanent protection.



Wilson Cabral de Sousa Junior
Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica, Brazil
“Without CSF, it is likely that the Jalapao would have been destroyed.”

BUILDING A BETTER ROAD

A trail wanders along the slope of Panama's Volcan Baru, through cloud forest, along the Caldera River and under the nests of resplendent quetzals. Quetzals are outlandish birds: shimmering emerald, scarlet and white, crowned with yellow fuzz, and finished with a dangling tail feather three times the length of their bodies. Namesake of the currency of Guatemala, they also give their name to Panama's best known hiking trail.

In 2002 a plan surfaced to pave the trail and bring cars though the heart of its' surrounding national parkland. CSF and The Nature Conservancy analyzed the proposal at the invitation of locals opposed to the project. We found that there was a better alternative to the optimistically named "eco-road," which would lose nearly a million dollars in addition to severing Volcán Barú from neighboring habitat. This alternative, around the other side of the volcano through productive agricultural land, was eventually selected based on local demands and the economic evidence.



Mayté González
CSF Course Graduate
The Nature Conservancy, Panama Director

"Thanks to the CSF course, I came to realize that when we are talking about development, we have to include the financial and economic dimension. Now we have this additional tool, which is economic analysis, and it's great"



CSF has achieved big results on a modest budget, whether measured in terms of acres saved, people served, animal species preserved, or carbon sequestered.

BIG RESULTS FOR NATURE

Land

Over **3.8 million acres saved**. = 15,378 km²
This area is larger than the US State of Connecticut.

The breakdown:

Place	Acres
Madidi (Bala), Bolivia	741,300
Amarakaeri, Peru	988,400
Jalapao, Brazil	1,729,700
Panama Canal, Panama	123,550
Volcan Baru, Panama	34,594
Maya Forest, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala	92,000
Belo Monte, Brazil	108,724
	3,818,268

Carbon

By helping conserve land, CSF has played a key role in **preventing 550 million tons of CO₂** from being released into the atmosphere. That is equivalent to the annual emissions of 22 coal fired power plants.

We are driven to focus on the human side of conservation. We want to know who benefits and how much. Where does conservation have the biggest payoff for people? Our work has paid off for the more than 900 people from 70 countries who have participated in CSF courses, and for the millions of people in their home countries who have benefited from their environmental efforts. Our field studies benefit indigenous people struggling to assert their resource rights, communities looking for economic alternatives that will actually work, city dwellers who simply care about nature and many others.

One of our earliest collaborations, with the Center for Popular Legal Assistance in Panama, analyzed a proposed expansion of the Panama Canal, and was one factor that led to consideration and eventual approval of a much lower-impact plan, now being constructed. That choice will dramatically reduce flooding and allow over **10,000 people to keep their small farms.**

SERVING PEOPLE



SAVING SPECIES

Conserving terrestrial and marine ecosystems is about much more than raw acres of forest, or square miles of reef. Every stretch of land or ocean that is saved is home to a dazzling diversity of plants and animals.

We'd love to list the thousands of species whose survival has been aided by our work, but space is limited so we'll just name a few.

Scarlet macaw
Belize, Guatemala and Mexico

7 species of monkeys
Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea

Giant otters and tapirs
Amazon and Pantanal, Brazil and Bolivia

Woolly spider monkey
Atlantic Forest, Brazil

Resplendent quetzal
Panama, Guatemala

Brazilian merganser duck
Jalapão, Brazil

Whale shark
Mesoamerican reef, Belize



SAVING NATURE CAN BE A LOW COST PROPOSITION

CSF has proven that enhancing the capacity of decision-makers worldwide to differentiate good projects from bad can achieve impressive results at a remarkably low cost.

Total acres saved: 3.8 million

Total 10-year expenditures: \$5.5 million

Cost per acre: <\$1.50/acre

Cost of CO2 emissions eliminated: \$0.01/ton

THE FUTURE

From just an idea, CSF has now grown to a staff of 15 staff in three countries on two continents. But much remains to be done. As our approach has begun to take hold throughout the conservation world, we see more and more demand.

Here's a few things we'll do with more resources: Increase our training capacity. Currently we receive over 10 applications for every available training position—more classes in more places are urgently needed; Work in more critical regions such as Central America, Southeast Asia and Africa; And address more of humanity's pressing challenges, like climate change and the health of our oceans.

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*Senior Program
Officer
Gordon and
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“CSF is recognized not only as a great training organization, but also as an honest, objective and very competent analytical team. We are seeing their work directly influencing key decision-makers.”



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