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We would like to thank
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Conservation Agreements: Protecting nature and improving lives

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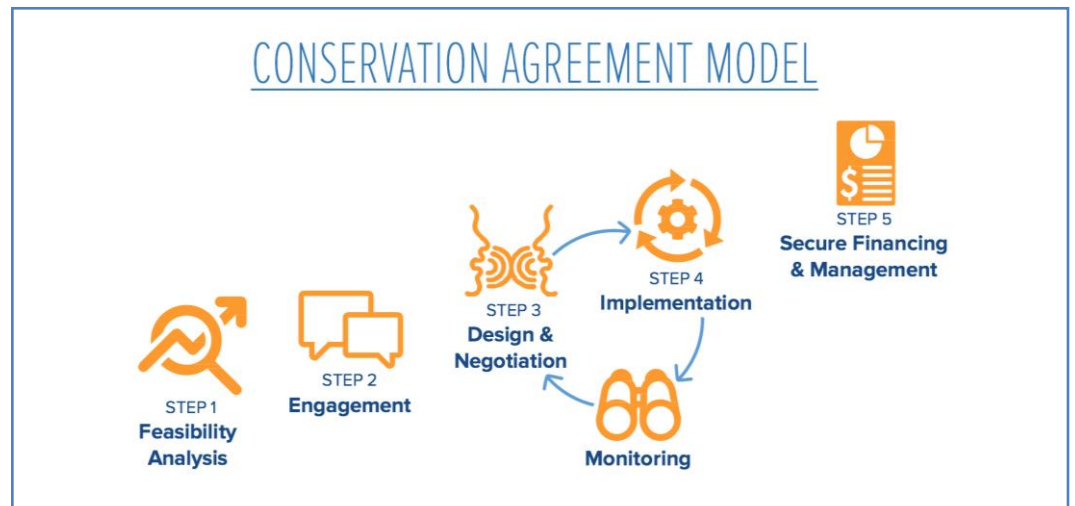
Synthesis

Forests, reefs and species around the world are threatened by local people who lack alternatives to unsustainable resource use. Protecting biodiversity and key ecosystem services in these places requires conservation tools that provide development opportunities to local populations. When conservation offers concrete benefits to rural farmers and local communities, protecting the environment becomes an increasingly viable and attractive choice.

Objectives:

To make biodiversity conservation a viable choice for communities through explicit agreements that provide tangible benefits in exchange for effective conservation of high priority areas and species.

Methodology:



The conservation agreement model is based on the commitment of communities to protect nature through specific conservation actions, in return for a negotiated benefit package. Benefits typically include investments in livelihoods, such as technical support and inputs to improve agriculture, as well as social services including teachers' wages. Benefits can also include wages for conservation-related activities.

The size of these benefit packages depends on the cost of changes in resource use, as well as conservation performance. Rigorous monitoring verifies both conservation and socioeconomic results.

Get more informations on conservation agreements here:



CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

Conservation actions protecting biodiversity + ecosystem services:

- Patrolling
- Reforestation
- Cease forest clearing
- Stop illegal hunting

Benefits provided to improve human well-being:

- Education support
- Health services
- Agricultural support
- Wages for patrolling

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The Conservation Stewards Programme's (CSP) conservation agreement model offers direct incentives for conservation through a negotiated benefit package in return for conservation actions by communities. Thus, a conservation agreement links conservation funders — governments, bilateral agencies, private sector companies, foundations, individuals, etc. — to people who own and use natural resources.

Key principles of the conservation agreement methodology are a voluntary participation for all parties, a transparent and inclusive design and negotiation, and interaction on a level playing field between communities and partner organizations. The main steps to implement the model are:

- Conducting a **feasibility analysis** to determine whether a conservation agreement is appropriate.
- **Engagement** with the communities by the agreement proponent to explain their interests and the conservation agreements concept. This will lead to making a joint decision to work together in the design of the agreement.
- **Designing and negotiating** an agreement that is:
 - fair (benefits both biodiversity and communities)
 - **quid-pro-quo** (provision of benefits depends on conservation performance)
- **Implementation** of the agreement's commitments by the parties involved. Typically, a short-term agreement is negotiated first in order to test assumptions made in its design and see how well it works. This also allows opportunities to refine the agreement, build trust, develop relationships, find more partners and, crucially, identify options for long-term financing and conservation agreement management.
- **Monitoring** the agreements environmental and socio-economic outcomes to understand how the conservation agreement is working.
- **Exit strategy:** define the period of time the initiative has to be in place, as well as the financial and management structures needed to support enduring behavior change.

Results:

Founded in 2005, the Conservation Stewards Program has worked with governments, communities and individuals worldwide, with 4,000, agreements signed in 19 countries protecting 4 million hectares and benefiting 250,000 people.

Conservation agreements are long-term interventions that produce **enduring benefits for people and nature**, with an emphasis on financial sustainability and sound governance.

By working within existing social structures and promoting local empowerment, conservation agreements enable improved stewardship of key natural resources and help people pursue sustainable development options.

For more details:

www.conservation.org/csp

CSP Brochure

Conservation agreements, Field Guide 2016

Conservation Agreements Animated Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vVh6tnyknE&t=1s>