


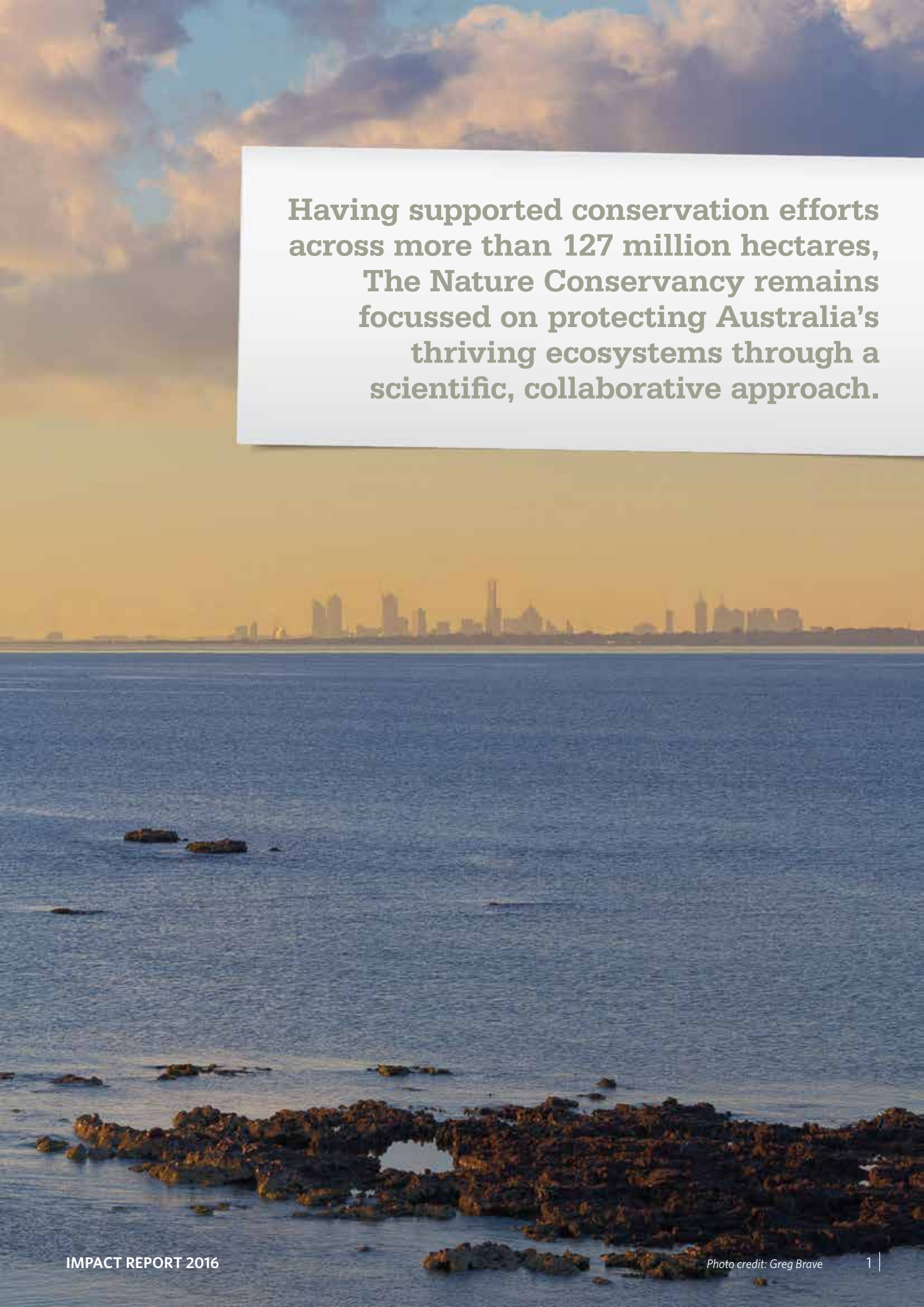
**THE WORLD
WE DEPEND ON
DEPENDS ON US**
IMPACT REPORT 2016



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The Nature Conservancy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the places in which we work and honours the deep cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic connection they share with their lands and waters.



Having supported conservation efforts across more than 127 million hectares, The Nature Conservancy remains focussed on protecting Australia's thriving ecosystems through a scientific, collaborative approach.

ABOUT US

The Nature Conservancy was founded in 1951 and now works in 69 countries with a staff of nearly 4,000 people - including 600 scientists. Through collaborations with an extensive network of partners all over the world, The Nature Conservancy is positioned to take action on the most complex challenges facing the planet.

The Conservancy's Australia program was formed in 2002, with our projects serving as living laboratories where new ideas to PROTECT nature are tested and perfected. We engage businesses and governments to deliver on-the-ground results, proving that these innovations TRANSFORM how society values and uses our natural resources. And, by empowering stakeholders with solutions that work, we INSPIRE the kind of action that brings lasting prosperity for people and nature around the globe.



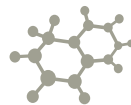
65

Years of impact



1 Million

Members



600

Scientists



50 Million

Hectares conserved



69

Countries

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY BEYOND REPROACH

We will meet the highest ethical and professional standards in all of our organisational endeavours and, in doing so, we hold ourselves accountable to our mission and to the public.

RESPECT FOR PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, AND CULTURES

We respect the needs, values and traditions of local communities and cultures, and we forge relationships based on mutual benefit and trust.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

We recognise that conservation is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of men and women of diverse backgrounds, beliefs and cultures.

ONE CONSERVANCY

Our strength and vitality lie in being one organisation working together in local places and across borders to achieve our global mission.

TANGIBLE, LASTING RESULTS

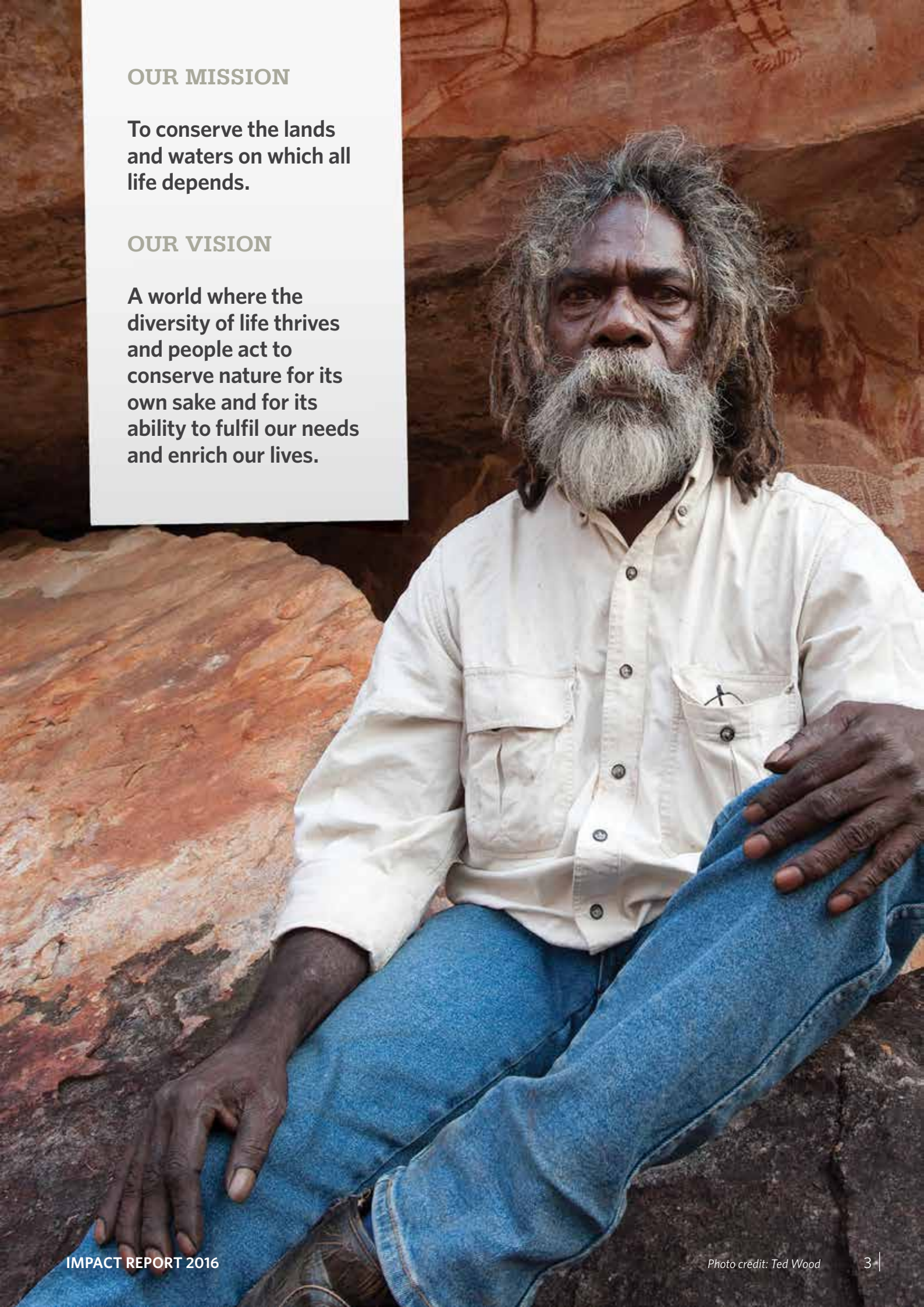
We use the best available science, a creative spirit, and a non-confrontational approach to craft innovative solutions to complex conservation problems at scales that matter and in ways that will endure.

OUR MISSION

To conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

OUR VISION

A world where the diversity of life thrives and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and for its ability to fulfil our needs and enrich our lives.



“The stakes are high,
but at The Nature
Conservancy we are
optimistic. The problems
we face are solvable.”



WELCOME FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

People need nature. We need nature for the air, water, food and shelter that sustain us. We need nature for medicinal, recreational and employment purposes and we need it to keep our families and communities healthy. We want our children – and their children – to enjoy these benefits too. Now, more than ever, nature needs us.

As our awareness of the importance of nature grows, so does our understanding of the threats to its health. Biodiversity loss, a changing climate and the rapidly increasing demand for food, water, minerals and energy are stressing nature to her limits. This stress threatens to exacerbate poverty, hunger and the spread of disease.

The stakes are high, but at The Nature Conservancy we are optimistic. The problems we face are solvable. We know this because every day we are out there working with people in the cities, towns and rural and remote landscapes of Australia and around the world to develop innovative, science-based solutions to the natural world's most urgent problems.

Globally, The Nature Conservancy is tackling some of the biggest challenges affecting our climate, lands, freshwater, oceans and cities. Locally, we've made a strong start in all of these areas. We're working to protect the great rivers and wetlands along the Murray-Darling Basin. We're transforming the way Australians value our bays and estuaries, while sparking a revolution in ocean conservation with our Great Southern Seascapes work. We're helping to inspire global climate action through our carbon emissions work in northern Australia. Our Martu Living Deserts Project is catalysing land conservation at an unprecedented scale – and we're focusing on urban strategies that will have a positive impact for nature and people in our major cities. We're also constantly identifying shared value with our corporate partners, creating meaningful ways to work together to address our most pressing conservation problems.

That's who we are at The Nature Conservancy – we're problem solvers, and the world needs that problem-solving capability now more than ever.

The results we're sharing here wouldn't have been possible without your help. Over the past year we've also been supported by some key local community events, including the third biannual Nature Writing Prize and the Big Swim and we are extremely grateful for the time and effort that goes into running these important events. I would like to say a huge thank you to our Advisory Board. We're excited about looking to the future and continuing to build on what we have already achieved.

Thank you for your support.
Together, we will change the world.



Rich Gilmore
Country Director



GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to thank all of our donors for entrusting The Nature Conservancy to make a difference to our environment in Australia.

I'm often asked how nature came to be such an important part of my life. As a boy in Broken Hill I saw the awesome power of the 1956 flood on the Darling River, the life giving force of the Great Anabranch of the Darling River with its abundant Murray cod and sugar bags of yabbies. I saw in turn how policies that led to overgrazing had to be addressed with what is called Western Lands and how over clearing led to ferocious dust storms. I saw people and nature trying to reach accommodation, sometimes too late.

My introduction in 1997 to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was through the CEO, the late John Sawhill, who had been a fellow Director at McKinsey & Co. TNC's mission resonated as bold and inspiring and the values John described - a science based organisation that is non confrontational and collaborates with others to affect conservation outcomes - appealed to me. So I invited John to look at establishing an Australian chapter.

Shortly afterwards I was introduced to David Thomas. David had heard of TNC on fishing expeditions in the US and shared my interest in an Australian operation. David agreed to fund a feasibility assessment, the first of numerous commitments he has made to our success in Australia (you can read more about David's extraordinary commitments to nature on page 24).

We found TNC's preparedness to think big about environmental problems very appealing. Its willingness to use markets for conservation gain is consistent with my training in economics - not just buying land but selling it with a conservation easement, buying fishing licences then handing them back to fishers who agree to a sustainable catch, and even buying sovereign debt of nations in return for protecting natural assets. This is the modus operandi of The Nature Conservancy, seen today in our work developing carbon markets for savanna burning, and the water fund we've created in the Murray-Darling Basin, achieving investor returns and water wetlands. Our shellfish restoration work is the first of its kind in Australia and will go a long way to showcase the potential for what is often called natural capital. These initiatives involve collaboration with philanthropists, Indigenous ranger groups, recreational fishers and government.

We still have much to do in Australia. We spent our first decade focused on landscape scale conservation in northern and Western Australia to reduce the threats to flora and fauna, and to strengthen the capacity of our partners. This work continues, but we've now extended to our major river system, our coastlines and estuaries and soon to the health of our cities.

This report is a tribute to those who get things done with The Nature Conservancy: our staff, our Advisory Board, our partner organisations and most importantly you.

Thank You.



Rob McLean AM
Chair, The Nature Conservancy Australia





“We still have much to do in Australia... we’ve now extended our work to our major river system, our coastlines and estuaries and soon to the health of our cities.”

OUR IMPACT

Australia is a megadiverse country, supporting almost 10% of the biological diversity on Earth. The species found in Australia are unique, with 80% of mammals, plants and reptiles found nowhere else in the world. We have a special responsibility to conserve these species and their habitats for generations to come.

The Nature Conservancy has prioritised where and how we work to ensure we achieve the biggest possible impact – working with partners, using sound science and innovative models for conservation that can be replicated across the landscape are trademarks of our approach.

The following pages outline the progress to date across our projects in northern Australia (the largest intact savanna system on Earth), the aridlands (the world's most intact desert landscape), the temperate bays and estuaries of southern Australia (where 80% of our marine species are found nowhere else), the Murray-Darling Basin (one of the world's great river basins) and cities (thriving hubs for people and nature). It presents both strong results for established programs and exciting potential for new and emerging programs.



Dr James Fitzsimons
Director of Conservation






Today, the fate of the world is in our hands. Soon more than 9 billion people will share our planet and all the precious resources on which we depend. Without innovation, we risk becoming trapped in a vicious cycle, over-exploiting and degrading nature, and impoverishing life for people.

The Nature Conservancy believes that people and nature can thrive together. We take care of nature, so that nature can take care of us.



People need nature and nature needs us.

Drawing on 60 years of experience, the expertise of our 600 staff scientists and the commitment of one million supporters worldwide, we are focused on achieving long-term results across the five key impact areas that have the greatest capacity to sustain the health of nature on a global scale.

 1 Inspire global CLIMATE action	 2 Catalyse LAND conservation at an unprecedented scale	 3 FRESH WATER Save the last great rivers and lakes	 4 Spark a revolution in OCEAN conservation	 5 Bring nature's power into CITIES
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BY 2020, ACROSS THE GLOBE WE WILL

PROTECT nature at unprecedented scales by working with communities to achieve their goals to conserve nature and the benefits it provides to people:

- Conserve over 200 million hectares of forests, grasslands and working lands
- Safeguard 96,500 kilometres of the world's most precious sources of fresh water
- Protect over 160 million hectares of coral reefs and marine waters

TRANSFORM the way we use and manage resources to safeguard nature and improve human wellbeing

- Attract \$50 billion in public and private investments that link nature and human progress
- Improve millions of lives through solutions that improve the health of nature and help to enhance climate conditions, air and water quality and storm defences

INSPIRE a movement that places nature at the heart of efforts to address climate change and ensure a future in which people and nature thrive

- By informing and inspiring decision-makers and the next generation of global leaders to value nature fully, we aim to elevate conservation's place on the global agenda

WE ARE REDEFINING CONSERVATION AS WE:

- Expand conservation science to engage engineers, psychologists, economists and others to help us better understand the connections between the well-being of people and nature
- Meet development challenges head-on by stepping up our efforts in places where pressures are greatest, such as Africa, Asia and Latin America
- Demonstrate how simple decisions we, as individuals, make every day can have a powerful and positive impact on the future of our world

Photo credit: Natalie Holland



CLIMATE

INSPIRING GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

WHERE WE WORK

Australia's northern savannas, from Cape York to the Kimberley.

OUR VISION

Quolls foraging, young people learning from elders, and prosperous communities harnessing fire for renewal and growth.

CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

Home to the world's largest remaining tropical savanna, northern Australia is teeming with life – over 50% of our bird species and around a third of our mammal species are found here. Most of the region is blanketed by tropical and sub-tropical savanna, a habitat that once covered about 12% of our planet. Globally, less than half of that habitat remains.

Uncontrolled fires, invasive species, poor land management and increasing development pressures have escalated the need for sustainable conservation strategies. Many of the threats and underlying causes of biodiversity loss resulted from the years following European settlement and ensuing loss of Indigenous management. Indigenous people now own or lay claim to over 60% of land across the savannas and have essential knowledge and capacity for effective management of their Country. The challenge now is for this knowledge to be sustained and used for the future health of the savannas and long-term benefit of local communities and all Australians.

OUR IMPACT

The Nature Conservancy works with Indigenous, scientific and government partners to develop a proven framework for fire-carbon projects, blending Indigenous knowledge with cutting edge science to significantly reduce the extent of late season wildfires. By doing so, we conserve biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions and provide meaningful employment for Indigenous Australians.

Together with our work catalysing and supporting development of Indigenous Protected Areas, supporting Indigenous groups to plan and manage their land through Healthy Country Planning, and building capacity for long-term sustainable management, we are helping build a foundation for the wellbeing of the people and Country upon which each mutually depends.

BY 2020 WE WILL

1. Improve the health of the savanna and expand conservation and effective management across 39 million hectares of the northern savannas.
2. Improve Indigenous livelihoods through training, planning and sustainable fire management, generating \$30 million per annum of sustainable finance.
3. Support the expansion of early-season fire management to more than 20 million hectares, reducing carbon emissions by more than 6.4 million tonnes each year.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Fish River Station is a two and a half hour drive south of Darwin. Stretching across 180,000 hectares, it features some of northern Australia's most spectacular landscapes - savannas, woodlands, limestone and sandstone outcrops, rainforests and the famous Daly River. It's also home to some of nature's most iconic creatures, including saltwater and freshwater crocodiles, northern quolls and the most diverse range of freshwater turtle species in Australia.

A pastoral property for more than 30 years, in 2010 the land was purchased by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), with support from The Nature Conservancy, the Australian Government and Pew Environment Group. It's now managed by ILC under the guidance of an Indigenous Advisory Group representative of four Traditional Owner Groups - Labarganyan, Wagiman, Malak Malak and Kamu.

Senior Cultural Advisor John Daly is proud to bring his family back 'on country'. "It's been immensely satisfying to be able to bring my boys onto this special land to pass on the secret knowledge of the past and to see the enjoyment they get out of being out here."

After the property was purchased, John worked closely with Sean Ansell - Fish River's then property manager - and The Nature Conservancy's Geoff Lipsett-Moore - to establish the now-flourishing ranger program and figure out the best way to manage the land in a way that could eventually financially sustain the program.

The solution? Bring together traditional indigenous fire-management methods with modern science.

That meant burning the country earlier in the dry season to produce cooler, patchy fires and to minimise the impact of large wildfires later in the dry season. This looks after wildlife, reduces carbon emission and ultimately generated carbon credits. "Fish River can now proudly lay claim to being the first approved fire project in the country to sell carbon credits under the Australian Government's emissions trading scheme," John says.

It has also helped pave the way for many other fire-carbon projects across northern Australia, many also supported by The Nature Conservancy. More recently, the Conservancy has been working with its partners on another ambitious goal: gaining approval for the development of three new carbon methodologies by 2020. Combined they could positively impact more than 21 million hectares of land throughout northern Australia.

Back at Fish River John says it's turned out to be an ideal scenario. "We're protecting the land, being able to pass on our cultural heritage and, at the same time, giving young people the opportunity to do meaningful work that will help them learn to be leaders. It's a win-win, for everybody."

90%
Reduction

**IN LATE SEASON
WILDFIRES ACROSS FISH
RIVER - EQUIVALENT TO
TAKING 15,000 CARS OFF
THE ROAD FOR A YEAR**



\$52 Million
Of income

**GENERATED
FROM SAVANNA
BURNING ACROSS
NORTHERN
AUSTRALIA**



Photo credit: Peter Eve

"Fish River can now proudly lay claim to being the first approved fire project in the country to sell carbon credits under an emissions trading scheme."

John Daly, Senior Cultural Advisor

Photo credit: Peter Taylor



LANDS

CATALYSING LAND CONSERVATION AT AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE



WHERE WE WORK

Australia's western and central deserts.

OUR VISION

People and culture thriving, birds and bilbies flourishing,
and waterholes bringing life to a vast and vibrant outback.

CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

Australia's deserts form the largest intact arid landscape left on Earth. Despite losing a number of mammal species following European colonisation, much of Australia's aridlands remain relatively unaltered. Within this vast landscape are the Martu lands, spanning an area twice the size of Tasmania across WA's western deserts. Martu Country is home to many of Australia's most threatened species, like the black-flanked rock-wallaby, the brush-tailed mulgara and Australia's largest unfenced bilby population.

These lands also hold immense cultural significance with extensive rock art and significant Jukurrpa (dreaming) stories. Having lived on this Country for at least 5,000 years, the Martu people have an immense depth of traditional knowledge; their management of country is central to the ongoing survival of this vast and important arid landscape, especially in the face of introduced threats such as uncontrolled fire, feral cats and camels and invasive weeds.

OUR IMPACT

Our flagship partnership, the Martu Living Deserts 'Warrarnpa Kana' Project is a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy, and Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ) and BHP Billiton. With support from Conservancy scientists, men's and women's Martu ranger teams are restoring traditional burning practices, controlling feral animals, rehabilitating water holes and protecting threatened species like bilbies and rock-wallabies.

The Martu Living Deserts Project provides significant employment opportunities for Martu to look after their culture and country. KJ is the single largest employer of Martu, providing permanent and casual employment for more than 250 Martu. The strong connections that remain between Martu and their country provide a unique opportunity to preserve comprehensive, traditional knowledge of Martu culture and heritage and achieve conservation success on a truly global scale.

BY 2020 WE WILL

1. Increase the area of Australian aridlands under conservation protection by 200,000 square kilometres (5.6% of Australian aridlands).
2. Support the ongoing traditional management of fire, feral animals and waterholes across 14.6 million hectares of Indigenous lands.
3. Establish a proven and effective model for providing sustainable funding for conservation land management in the aridlands.

A CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

Few people can honestly say that they love their job, let alone describe it as an enriching and rewarding experience. Leah Robinson is one those fortunate few.

Leah worked as a home and community care coordinator until it was suggested she might like to try working in a women's ranger team; it turned out to be a great idea.

Since joining the Martu Living Deserts Project women's ranger team two years ago, Parnngurr ranger and traditional owner Leah hasn't looked back. Her job sees her taking day and extended trips onto Martu country, an area that spans twice the size of Tasmania. Out on country, Leah and other rangers undertake work to help to protect threatened species, look after waterholes, perform fire work and do weed management.

One of the benefits of this work is that it brings women from different communities together. Leah says, "We need them to stay longer in communities - the ranger program helps with this."

Practicing and learning about her cultural heritage is very important to Leah, which is why she particularly likes it when elders join the trips. "They are important because they know the countryside, like waterholes and soaks, and where to go. They are the teachers for us."

The ranger team also helps pass on cultural knowledge to the next generation, working with Martu kids and teaching them about their country and culture.

Leah's fondest memory of her ranger trips was when her Aunty (Ngamaru) took her to visit her grandmother and mother's country. Her family has a clay pan, which sometimes has water in it and they enjoy visiting it and doing some hunting. "It's really good to go out hunting and get bush tucker - I love it."

Working as a ranger is more than a job. For Leah, it's created a personal connection to her country and culture. "It's opened my heart and my memories and it makes me healthy also."

14 Million
Hectares

**THE MARTU
AREA PROJECT
IS HELPING
TO CONSERVE**



109
Women Rangers



Photo credit: Katherine Mullet (KJ)

"It's opened my heart and my memories and it makes me healthy also."

Leah Robinson, Martu Ranger



Kanu Taylor, Parnngurr ranger and elder, out hunting after burning country. Photographer: Sarah Watson (KJ)



FRESH WATER

SAVING THE LAST GREAT RIVERS AND LAKES



WHERE WE WORK

The rivers and wetlands of the southern Murray-Darling Basin.

OUR VISION

Ancient red gums standing, mighty rivers running and productive farmlands nourishing Australia and the world.

CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

The Murray-Darling Basin is one of the world's largest and most productive river basins, sustaining \$19 billion of agricultural production and providing one-third of Australia's food supply. The Basin's 30,000 wetlands support diverse animals, plants and ecosystems of national and international significance.

Around the world, population growth, climate change and over-extraction are placing enormous stress on the availability and quality of fresh water. Australia is no exception: in the Murray-Darling Basin – our nation's food bowl – 80% of wetlands, rivers and floodplains are in poor health.

OUR IMPACT

In partnership with the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group and Kilter Rural, we have launched the Australian Balanced Water Fund, a world-first impact investing project that will demonstrate a new model for shared water use that provides water security for Australian farming families while restoring environmentally and culturally significant wetlands.

The Fund invests in permanent water rights in the southern Murray-Darling Basin and allocates those rights across multiple uses. When water is scarce and agricultural demand is higher, most water is available to agriculture. When water is abundant and agricultural demand is lower, more water is allocated to wetlands. It is win-win, aligning the interests of people and nature.

The Fund's first wetland restoration project saw 1,300 megalitres of water used to restore 72 hectares of environmentally and culturally significant wetlands near Wentworth in New South Wales, the ancestral lands of the Maurara and Barkindji people.

BY 2020 WE WILL

1. Demonstrate a new financially self-sustaining approach to managing water scarcity that generates benefits to irrigators, wetlands and Indigenous culture.
2. Provide 6,000 megalitres of water to wetlands every year, sufficient to restore ecological health to approximately 3,000 hectares of large and small high priority wetlands.
3. Enhance natural values such as waterbird and fish spawning, increase wetland plant growth and diversity, improved fish passage and animal movement among key wetland areas.

A NATURAL BOND

Wine grape grower Howard Jones agreed to become Chairman of the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group (MDWWG) 20 years ago, at the suggestion of the former commissioner of water in NSW. Back then, his farm demanded almost all of his time. But he rationalised that he'd already spent half his life wandering around rivers and wetlands, so it made sense to be in a position to do something to help to conserve the health of the Basin.

The MDWWG works on environmental flows, either with government or on private wetlands. Howard credits the joy of watching the expression on a farmer's face when the birds and the frogs arrive after a watering event as one of the key reasons he's so passionate about his role. He recalls one particular occasion when they pumped water into Queensland's Fletchers Creek, which had been without water in that area for 17 years. "The frogs were literally 50 metres behind the water, it was an incredible sight!"

One of Howard's other joys is spending time in nature with his grandsons, Cameron and Gabriel. As a result of their bush adventures, Howard is establishing a particularly special bond with 'the little bloke', Gabriel, who spends every school holiday break staying on his grandparent's farm.

"He's such an inquisitive kid and we have a lot of fun together. We laugh a lot; he particularly enjoys camping and fishing mainly because it's something special we can do together."

Howard recalls the first time Gabriel caught a fish. "He was only four and the look on his face when he caught a little Golden Perch, was priceless. He asked if he could keep it but it was too small so he reluctantly threw it back."

It's important for Howard to teach his grandkids about the value of nature and how to respect it. "As long as they understand and respect nature, then we can continue to enjoy it together."

1 Million
Kilometres²

**THE TOTAL
AREA OF THE
MURRAY-DARLING
BASIN**



80%
of river valleys

**THE BASIN'S RIVER
VALLEYS THAT ARE
IN POOR OR VERY
POOR HEALTH**

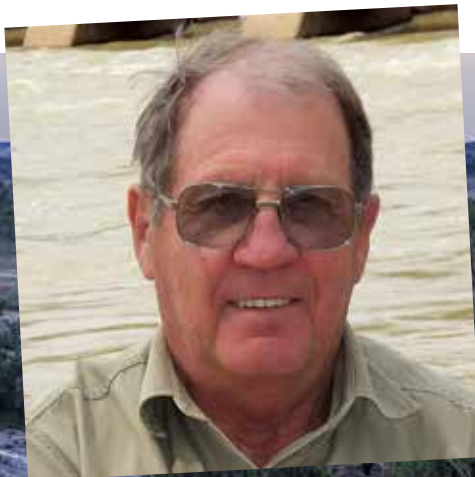


Photo credit: The Nature Conservancy

**"By understanding
and respecting nature,
we can continue to
enjoy it together."**

Howard Jones, Chairman of the Murray
Darling Wetlands Working Group

Photo credit: Kwest



OCEANS

SPARKING A REVOLUTION IN OCEAN CONSERVATION



WHERE WE WORK

The bays and estuaries of Australia's great southern seascapes.

OUR VISION

Abundant fish that is safe to eat, restored oyster reefs teeming with life, and living shorelines protecting resilient coastal communities.

CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

Australia's southern coastlines provide over 19 million Australians with fresh seafood, abundant recreational opportunities and critical waste treatment and removal. 200 years ago, these coasts supported thousands of oyster reefs and mussel beds which filtered the water and provided habitat for myriad ocean species.

After years of commercial dredging, water pollution, introduced species and disease, these reefs have virtually disappeared. The growth of cities, farming and intensive fishing have caused ecological decline in many bays and estuaries, many of which are no longer able to support productive fisheries or sustain high levels of biodiversity.

OUR IMPACT

Our Oceans program aims to dramatically accelerate and increase the scale of conservation and restoration of coastal habitats in bays and estuaries across southern Australia. Our first dedicated, in-water Australian marine program aims to change the way Australians value, support and resource marine restoration. The program focuses on seascapes where development, livelihood and recreational pressures are greatest and where people are most dependent upon the oceans. Using natural limestone and recycled oyster shells, we are rebuilding shellfish reefs in Victoria's Port Phillip and Corio Bays and Western Australia's Oyster Harbour, with plans to extend the program across southern Australia later in 2016.

Our Mapping Ocean Wealth initiative is working to calculate and describe the value provided by Australia's southern coasts in an effort to support smart investment and decision-making that will sustain the ocean today and for future generations.

BY 2020 WE WILL

1. Catalyse the recovery of Australia's lost shellfish reefs by establishing five, landscape-scale restoration projects across southern Australia.
2. Restore 500,000 m² of native shellfish reef habitat across the bays and estuaries of southern Australia.
3. Enable a national market for ecosystem services by demonstrating the blue carbon and shoreline protection values of saltmarsh, mangrove and seagrass habitats..

Functionally
Extinct

**THE STATUS
OF OYSTER
REEFS IN
AUSTRALIA**



85%
of oyster reefs

**THE PERCENTAGE
THAT HAVE BEEN
COMPLETELY
LOST GLOBALLY**

HOOKED ON NATURE

From the moment he joined Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club, Bob Pearce was hooked.

"As kids we used to fish off the pier and see guys coming back in their clinker boats with big, long snapper and I thought to myself, I'd like to catch one of them," he recalls. "The very day after I joined the club, in 1962, I turned up at 3am to go fishing with one of the guys from the club in his boat. That morning I caught my very first snapper, something I never dreamed I'd be able to do." That was 53 years ago - Bob was only 17 - but he knew that fishing was going to be a big part of his life.

One of Bob's favourite boyhood memories is racing down to the seashore, bucket in hand, to collect the shellfish that would litter the beach after a storm. "Back then, there were so many mussels and oysters that I'd struggle to carry my bucket home. It was like Mother Nature's way of clearing out her stock to make way for the fresh, young ones."

"That was a long time ago," he sighs. "You don't see many oysters or mussels wash up on shore anymore and there's fewer fish in the bay." Bob contemplates the problem, then smiles: "But it's not too late."

Bob and his fellow angling club members decided they had to do something about the decline in fish numbers. They approached Fisheries Victoria, who had been keen to undertake a shellfish reef restoration project. The Nature Conservancy loved the idea of the project and came on board to help make it happen. A year-and-a-half later there are two pilot shellfish reef sites being tested in Port Phillip Bay.

"I can't contemplate life without fishing, it's in my blood. I have a dream that one day we'll have a cleaner bay, full of healthy shellfish reefs teeming with creatures and extra fish too! It will take time for the project to progress to the scale of reefs we had even 20 years ago but we've certainly made a great start," he grins.

Nature needs more people like Bob.

! The Shellfish Reef Restoration project in Port Phillip Bay is made possible thanks to Fisheries Victoria and the Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club.

"Back then, there were so many mussels and oysters that I'd struggle to carry my bucket home."

Bob Pearce



Photo credit: Rachel Bailey

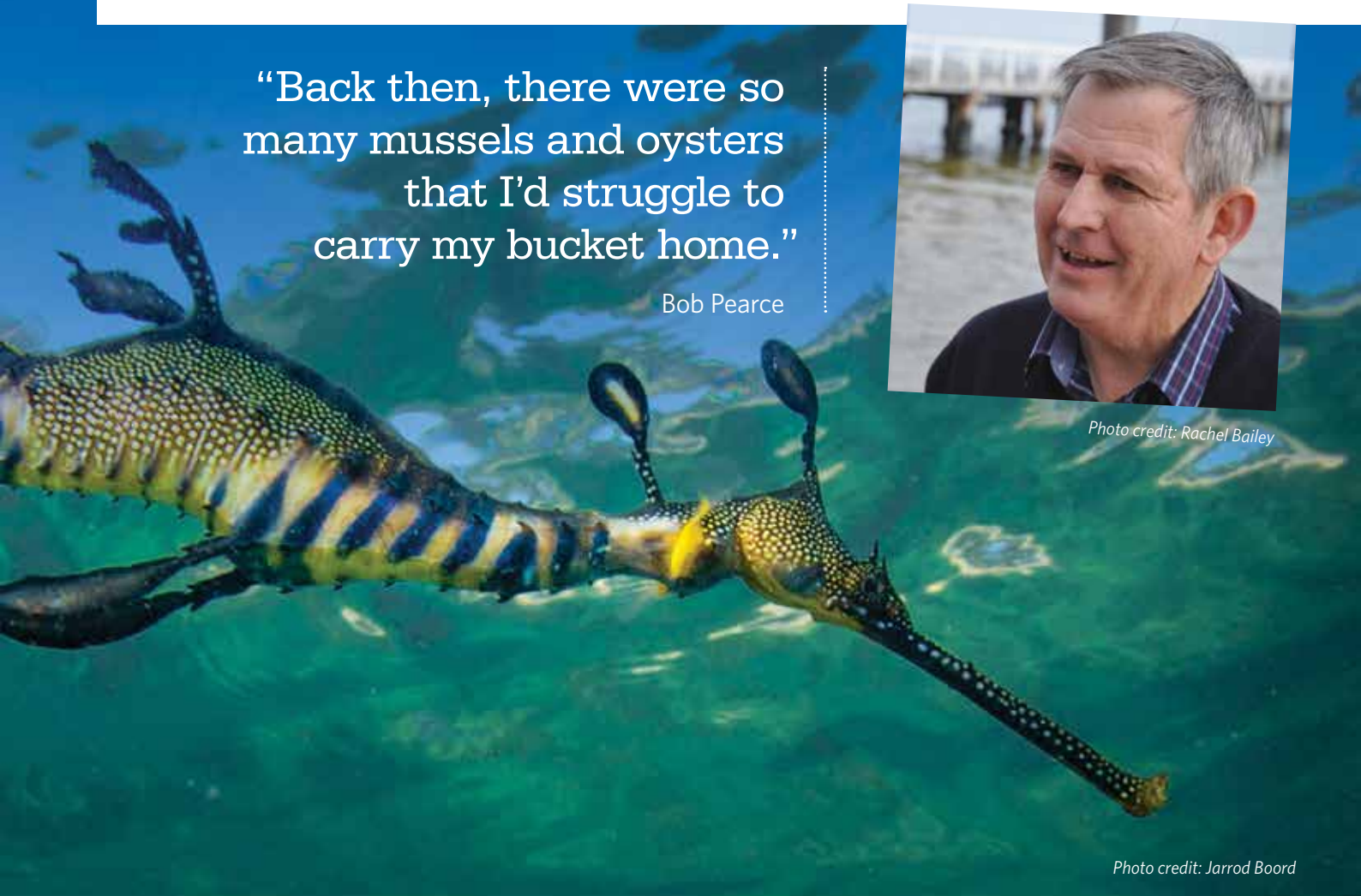


Photo credit: Jarrod Boord



CITIES

BRINGING NATURE'S POWER INTO CITIES

WHERE WE WILL WORK

Australia's major cities, beginning in Melbourne in 2016.

OUR VISION

Australian cities are resilient, healthy places in which people and nature flourish.

CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

Across the globe, people are moving into cities at a faster rate than ever before. For the first time in human history, more than half of the world's 7 billion people now live in a city. This rapid growth places cities in a precarious position, at the mercy of floods, droughts, storms and disease.

Australian cities are consistently regarded as among the world's most livable, with access to transport, housing, health, education, the arts and the natural amenity of beaches, parks and rivers. However, as Australian cities grow larger, these cities face new challenges including excessive heat, water scarcity, congestion and biodiversity loss. Nature can help meet these challenges but to date there has been no strategy - and little coordination - for bringing the power of nature back to cities. If we can fundamentally change the relationship between cities and nature, both can thrive.

OUR IMPACT

Working in conjunction with the global 100 Resilient Cities program, City of Melbourne, planners, developers, communities and 32 local governments, our first project will be to develop a comprehensive Urban Forest Strategy for metropolitan Melbourne.

The visionary strategy will provide a catalogue of the natural assets and resources of a bustling, growing city, and information for how restoration and urban greening can be optimised to benefit biodiversity, decrease city heat and runoff and other ecosystem services. Our scientists will compile extensive data and analysis, with the resulting strategy outlining current and future opportunities for people to enjoy nature in the city and be part of its restoration.

By incorporating natural solutions into cities we can make them more resilient, livable and truly flourishing places. The model will then be scaled up and adapted for other urban areas across Australia, enriching the lives of millions of Australians.

OUR GOALS

Cities are the newest frontier in our mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We look forward to sharing our goals and achievements in the 2017 Impact Report.

“The visionary strategy will provide a catalogue of the natural assets and resources of a bustling, growing city...”

James Fitzsimons, Director of Conservation



Photo credit: M. Edwards



Photo credit: Gordon Bell

OUR PEOPLE

LEADING WITH SCIENCE

With over 600 scientists on staff, there's no doubt science is pivotal to the success of The Nature Conservancy. Our projects are living laboratories. Facts help us stay focused, ensuring that none of our assumptions go unchallenged. Our approach is pragmatic, solution-based, transparent and guided by science.

This sets us apart from other conservation groups, and means we solve problems by analysis, helping us find innovative solutions to the biggest threats to our natural world. To give you some insight into the people that make The Nature Conservancy tick, let us introduce you to two of the people helping us remain at the forefront of global conservation.



Photo credit: Justine Hausheer

PROFILE: DR EDDIE GAME

Dr Eddie Game is lead scientist for The Nature Conservancy Asia-Pacific.

For the past six years, Eddie has been the conservation planning Research and Development lead for the global science program. It's Eddie's responsibility to ensure The Nature Conservancy remains a world leader in making science based conservation decisions.

Eddie is living proof that science expands well beyond the confines of a lab, having worked in the field, on conservation projects in more than 15 countries. He's journeyed to the wilds of northern Kenya to undertake grazing management, ventured to one of the world's most intact deserts in Western Australia to monitor waterholes and recently trekked to the Adelbert Mountains – a remote and rugged range along Papua New Guinea's northern coast – to do acoustic monitoring.

Acoustic monitoring records the sounds of nature, known as the biophony. Sounds saturate the forest: insects buzz, frogs croak, birds shriek, mammals scuttle, and bats click.

Scientists can use the soundscape of a location as a way to assess its health. In basic terms, the more complex and complete the soundscape, the healthier the ecosystem and the greater the biodiversity.

Eddie is incredibly passionate about his work and suspects that acoustic sampling could be a cost and time-effective solution for gathering conservation data in remote locations. If the science supports the findings, this could be the ideal solution for monitoring the effectiveness of projects – both here in Australia and around the world.

“Acoustic monitoring records the sounds of nature, known as the biophony. Sounds saturate the forest: insects buzz, frogs croak, birds shriek, mammals scuttle, and bats click.”

Among her many career highlights, one of Lynne's greatest achievements to date has been growing The Nature Conservancy's "marine family" as she puts it.

PROFILE: LYNNE ZEITLIN HALE

Lynne Zeitlin Hale is The Nature Conservancy's Asia-Pacific Senior Marine Conservation Fellow.

Previously as Managing Director for Oceans, Lynne led The Nature Conservancy's transformation from an almost exclusive focus on terrestrial conservation, to our current position as a global leader in marine conservation.

Ironically for someone whose life has been spent strategically planning, coordinating and implementing every detailed element of successful conservation initiatives, Lynne happened upon her marine career by way of an impromptu decision whilst in college. "When I was young I wanted to be a doctor. In college, on a lark I decided to do a summer course on Swan's Island - an absolutely beautiful Island off the coast of Maine, with a favorite professor. I was hooked. I went from pre-med to marine biology. And never looked back," Lynne explains.

Working to ensure ocean issues get the attention they so desperately deserve, Lynne is now focused on marine programs in Asia-Pacific, the region with the greatest marine biodiversity coupled with greatest human dependence on the ocean. Lynne's work integrates science and policy with 'in-the-water' conservation and restoration. Having spent time in Australia, working closely with our team on the Great Southern Seascapes program, Lynne has a great love of our unique seascapes - and she's passionate about making sure they're looked after. "What strikes me is that while the tropical resources Australia has are incredibly well known and valued internationally, the biodiversity and resources in the temperate south, throughout Victoria and Tasmania, are often overlooked. These areas are simply awe-inspiring. I am proud our Great Southern Seascapes program is addressing this."

Among her many career highlights, one of Lynne's greatest achievements to date has been growing The Nature Conservancy's "marine family" as she puts it.



Photo credit: The Nature Conservancy

"I know that if change is going to happen we need an army of people working fastidiously place by place. I like to think I am helping create and support The Nature Conservancy foster these change-makers for the benefit of generations to come."

A true adventurer, Lynne travels extensively for her job, but still feels the most grounded when near the sea. Perhaps it's the years spent studying the deep blue that's rubbed off, but Lynne is known amongst her colleagues as a calming and serene influence.

WHERE WE'RE WORKING



- A** Martu Living Deserts Project
- B** Nyikina Mangala Development by Design & Healthy Country Plan
- C** Karunje-Durack Fire Management and Governance
- D** Fish River Fire Management and Capacity
- E** Olkola Fire Management
- F** Oyster Harbour (Albany) Shellfish Restoration
- G** Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary
- H** Gulf St Vincent Shellfish Reef Restoration
- I** Australian Balanced Water Fund: Carrs, Cappits and Bunberoo Creeks Environmental Watering Project
- J** Port Phillip Bay Shellfish Reef Restoration
- K** Westernport Blue Carbon Scoping
- L** Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy
- M** Richmond River Mapping Ocean Wealth

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

3,892,385

Tonnes

ASSISTED RANGERS TO BURN AN AVERAGE OF

150,000

Hectares per annum



IN THE COOL SEASON, HELPING REDUCE THE IMPACT OF DAMAGING WILDFIRES IN THE HOT SEASON



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ABATED OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS

10 Million Hectares of land



IMPROVED VIA FIRE MANAGEMENT (OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS)*

*TNC supported Indigenous fire projects in conjunction with a range of partners

30

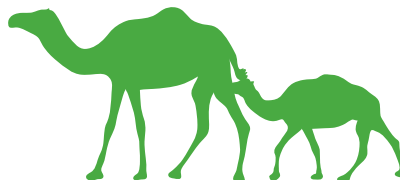
Indigenous groups

TRAINED IN HEALTHY COUNTRY PLANNING, PLUS OVER 25 COACHES IN THE REGION

28,000

Feral herbivores

REMOVED FROM MARTU COUNTRY - MOSTLY CAMELS



250+

Martu rangers



CONTRIBUTED TO THE HIRING OF PERMANENT AND CASUAL RANGERS



10 Indigenous

Protected areas



COVERING 19.42 MILLION HECTARES - THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ASSISTED IN THE DECLARATION

\$27 Million

Raised

FOR WORLD'S FIRST IMPACT INVESTMENT WATERFUND



1 Billion

Litres of water

RETURNED TOWETLANDS



RESTORED FLOWS TO

4 AND 4

Rivers

Wetlands



6,000

Kilograms

OF LIMESTONE FOUNDATION FOR NEW REEFS



6,300

Kilograms

OF MUSSELS DEPLOYED AS REEF BUILDERS



20,000

Oysters

RELEASED ONTO NEW REEFS IN PORT PHILLIP BAY

SET TO BENEFIT FROM OUR CITIES PROJECT:

10,000

Kilometres²

THE ENTIRE MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA



500

Hectares

AREA COVERED BY PARKS AND RESERVES



4.2 Million

People living in greater Melbourne



Title (please tick)

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Prof Other

Given Name

Surname

Street Address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Email

Contact Number: Home

Contact Number: Work

Contact Number: Mobile

Your donation will help us conserve Australia's iconic lands, waters and wildlife for our future generations.

I would like to become a Conservation Partner and make a donation to The Nature Conservancy.

Please deduct the amount of:

\$1,000 \$5,000 \$10,000 \$25,000 Other \$

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 / /

Cardholder name

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 / /

OR

My cheque/money order is enclosed (please make payable to **The Nature Conservancy Australia**)

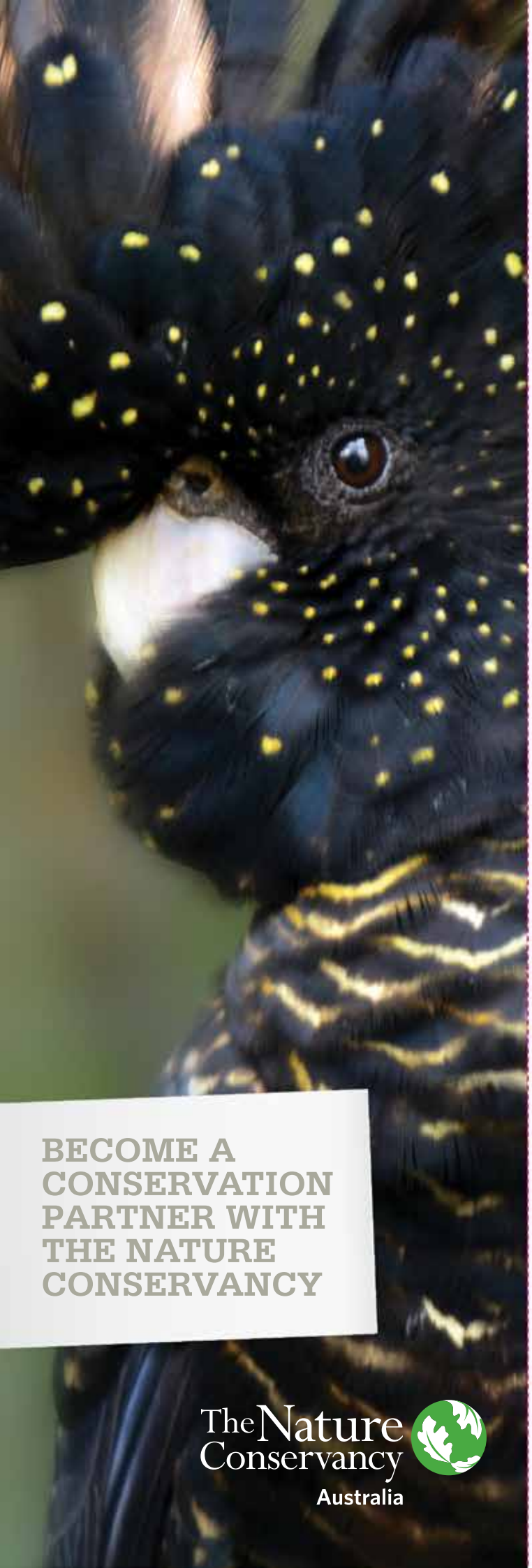
Please be assured your personal details will remain confidential. Donations \$2 and over are fully tax deductible.

Please send me information about:

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- Workplace giving
- Corporate volunteering opportunities

THANK YOU

FOR TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL HERITAGE BY BECOMING A CONSERVATION PARTNER.



MEET A MAJOR DONOR

DAVID AND BARBARA THOMAS AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy would like to acknowledge and thank David Thomas and his late wife Barbara and The Thomas Foundation for the central role they have played in enabling and supporting our Australian operations. Their passion and vision have been central to our achievements, including the successes seen in the pages of this report.

David Thomas became aware of The Nature Conservancy during his fly fishing travels in the 1990s; it seemed to him that most of the American anglers he met were supporters of The Nature Conservancy and wanted to talk about it. Impressed by the organisation's science-driven conservation model, David, along with his friend Rob McLean, encouraged The Nature Conservancy to establish in Australia.

Founder of the successful Australian company Cellarmasters, David recently said, "I spent 15 years making my money and 18 years giving it away." When David sold Cellarmasters in 1997, he and Barbara established The Thomas Foundation. Since then the Foundation has made grants to The Nature Conservancy in excess of \$20 million.

A first for Australia was an innovative matched-funds program in 2007, The David Thomas Challenge. The \$10 million grant's purpose was to encourage new and increased levels of private philanthropic support. The grant resulted in an investment of \$28 million for protection and management of critical conservation lands throughout Australia.

The Foundation regularly reviews its performance and after 15 years funding terrestrial conservation it came to the view that it had achieved its objectives. "In 2012 we concluded that our funding would be more effective if our focus shifted to the ocean. It was a huge shift because you can buy land but you can't buy the ocean."

The Foundation agreed to grant \$3 million to launch the Great Southern Seascapes program. This was the Conservancy's first ocean project in Australia and designed as a pilot study. There are already indications that it will roll-out nationally, with State Government and private sector support. With this positive response, strong community support and academic involvement, the Foundation has agreed to commit a further \$1.9 million to the second stage of the program.

It has also partnered with a number of environmental organisations in marine advocacy campaigns.

Through the Conservancy, the Foundation has funded 20 Fellowships, Science and Taxonomy Awards targeted at building conservation and philanthropy strengths in Australia.

In 2009 the David Thomas Conservation Oration was initiated, the Foundation partnering with The Nature Conservancy at the outset to stage these events. Six Orations were delivered on issues such as the close link of human and environmental health; the roles of Indigenous peoples in conservation; impacts on fish stocks of over-exploitation; and a review of Australia's progress in environmental legislation. The initiative gave voice to some of the most influential voices on some of the most important environmental challenges.

David says his two objectives in setting up the Foundation were to contribute to the growth of environmental philanthropy in Australia and specifically to help protect Australian biodiversity from further decline. "I chose The Nature Conservancy as my conservation managers. Together we have made significant achievements on both fronts."

David is a remarkable role model for the principle of 'giving while living', a message he wants to pass on to the next generation. "Don't wait to give your money away ... make substantial donations while you still have the energy, connections and influence to make a real difference ... and have the satisfaction of seeing the outcome."



Photo credit: Nigel Birt

BECOME A CONSERVATION PARTNER WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Nature Conservancy partners with individuals, corporations, trusts, foundations and Private Ancillary Funds to deliver innovative programs that address the needs of our unique Australian environment and the communities that depend on it. If you are considering making a philanthropic gift to The Nature Conservancy and wish to discuss your options, please contact us in confidence on (03) 8346 8600 or ausdevelopment@tnc.org

THANK YOU!

The great work you've just read about would never have been possible without the hard, behind-the-scenes work of countless people associated with The Nature Conservancy. To these collaborators, mentors, partners and friends we'd like to say, 'thank you'. Thank you to our donors and sponsors; thank you to the corporate organisations that rallied to our (many) calls; and thank you to the trusts, foundations and board members who have all worked so tirelessly – all because you, like us, believe in a world where people truly nurture nature.

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Our Australian Advisory Board performs a vital role as our ambassadors, conservationists, fundraisers and advisors. We are privileged to have the following Trustees in our Advisory Board:

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