

Conservation and Science

Program Overview

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is rooted today in the same principles that guided David and Lucile Packard all their lives – a belief in the power of science to improve the human condition and restore the health of the planet.

This deep conviction in conserving the planet's natural resources is realized by the Conservation and Science program's grantmaking in four areas of focus: climate change mitigation, land conservation, ocean conservation, and scientific research.

The Challenge

The world's growth in population and consumption is leading to the loss of forests and biodiversity, overfishing and degradation of marine resources, air and water pollution, and growing impacts from climate change.

The Foundation is working toward a future where the Earth's ecosystems can support a diversity and abundance of life while meeting human needs, resource management decisions are based on sound science and information, and effective governance and management systems ensure the sustainability of resource use and the equitable distribution of benefits.

Our Approach

The Conservation and Science program invests in action and ideas that conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing human well-being. We

support public policy reforms, changes in private sector practices, and science and research to develop essential knowledge and tools for addressing current and future priorities.

The conservation issues we work on are complex, but we are committed to thinking big and being persistent to achieve our goals.

Climate

Climate change is the defining issue of our day. It is a global problem that demands global action, while we still have time. If left unaddressed, climate change would uniquely undermine the priorities our family foundation set – improving the lives of children and families while protecting the earth's natural systems for future generations.

We know that mitigation efforts over the next 20 to 30 years can play a significant role in stabilizing our climate and protecting the earth's capacity to support life. Measurable progress is already being made, giving us hope that it is not too late to avoid dangerous human-caused climate change.

The Foundation supports two primary areas of work:

Global Climate Mitigation

Through our support to the ClimateWorks Foundation, the Foundation is helping to catalyze a coordinated worldwide philanthropic response to mitigate climate change. Through the ClimateWorks network, the majority of our

climate funding supports mitigation strategies in the areas of greatest potential and need.

Climate and Land Use

We work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from deforestation and unsustainable agricultural practices across the world. Our three objectives are to end the conversion of peatland and native forests to new palm oil plantations in Indonesia, reduce emissions from agriculture in the United States, and ensure that expansion of bioenergy is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

Land

Since its inception the Packard Foundation has supported land conservation in the North American West. The region is home to some of the continent's greatest natural treasures and last remaining wilderness. Combining unique biodiversity and spectacular topography, this rich array of iconic landscapes has strong cultural significance for both people who live there and people around the world.

But the region is transforming before our eyes. A huge influx of development is straining natural resources, endangering biodiversity, and threatening regional economies. In the face of growing development pressure and climate change impacts, we have invested in strategic opportunities to conserve land, strengthen policy and build new constituencies to ensure the sustainability of these ecosystems.

The ***Western Conservation*** subprogram, which awarded final grants in 2013, was a time-limited, six-year effort to protect and restore biologically important and iconic regions of Western North America, with a specific focus on California, Northwest Mexico and the Colorado Plateau.

The Foundation has commissioned a formal, third-party evaluation to learn more about the impact of our approach and investments. We plan to share our findings in late 2014.

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Oceans

People and the planet need healthy oceans. Oceans provide food for people, produce more than half our oxygen, regulate the climate, and greatly contribute to the global economy.

It is easy to think of the Earth's oceans as infinitely boundless, vibrant and healthy. Yet they are threatened by overfishing, ocean acidification and pressures from a growing global population. If left unaddressed, these pressures will undermine human well-being.

The Foundation's ocean conservation investments focus on achieving greater balance to how we use our oceans. We are approaching these complex challenges from two directions. First, we are working to create demand from businesses and the public for sustainable seafood. Our work is transforming the global seafood market by creating incentives for fishers and fish farmers to adopt responsible practices to curb overfishing.

Second, we are strengthening coastal management policies and governance in regions where marine productivity or biodiversity are threatened. This work results in healthy fish populations and protected habitat that ensures ongoing services we depend on from the ocean.

Our work in both areas is informed by science and research to accelerate and expand our understanding of the ocean. While all life evolved from the oceans and it is home to far more diversity of life than any other ecosystem, it still remains one of the least explored places on Earth.

Our Oceans area of focus is managed through five subprograms:

Gulf of California

We are building the capacity for safeguarding the Gulf of California's rich biological diversity, ecosystem goods and services, and associated social well-being.

Marine Birds

We work to reverse the decline of selected species of birds associated with marine environments, contributing to the restoration of sustainable marine ecosystems.

Marine Fisheries

We support efforts to transform the global seafood market to incentivize fishers and fish farmers to adopt responsible, sustainable fishing practices.

U.S. West Coast

We invest in efforts to sustain the biodiversity and productivity of the U.S. West Coast marine ecosystem as pressures and demands on these systems grow.

Western Pacific

We focus on protecting the health and productivity of the Western Pacific's precious coastal marine environments from overfishing and other rapidly growing pressures.

Science

To create real, long-term impact, we need solutions that are grounded in science and research, not speculation. The Packard Foundation supports creative, timely research to spark fresh thinking and produce effective, innovative solutions. We help put those ideas into action by sharing knowledge that decisionmakers can use to build consensus around proven solutions. We also empower scientists to play a meaningful role in important debates about how best to solve the world's challenges.

Science is also a key ingredient in the Conservation and Science program's decisionmaking process. We look for research to guide us in making smart investments for greater impact.

The following are areas of focus where the Foundation invests in furthering the creative pursuit of science.

Science Subprogram

We work with our grantees to put knowledge into action by connecting scientists with decision makers to further the Foundation's climate mitigation and ocean and land conservation goals.

Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering

The Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering invests in future leaders who have the freedom to take risks, explore new frontiers in the fields, and follow uncharted paths that may lead to groundbreaking discoveries.

Institutional Commitments

In addition, we have a longstanding commitment to supporting institutions that use science and research to generate new knowledge about our Earth’s natural systems and communicate that knowledge to the public. These commitments include:

- Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI)
- Center for Ocean Solutions (COS)

- Communications Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS)
- Aldo Leopold Leadership Program (ALLP)
- Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO)

Learn More

To learn more about the Conservation and Science program, visit our website at:

<http://www.packard.org/conservation-and-science/>.