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Great Rivers Center for Conservation and Learning *Learning for Life – Great Rivers Partnership*

One of the key goals of the Great Rivers Partnership is the establishment of the Great Rivers Center for Conservation and Learning. As the “intellectual cornerstone” for the Partnership, this center will play a vital role in developing the vision for managing and healing great rivers.

Ecologists, economists, sociologists and others affiliated with the center will identify strategic needs and goals for great river conservation, synthesize project experiences and information on key issues, integrate great river programs for broader impact, and measure overall progress. The Center will serve as a clearinghouse for information and therefore accumulate and magnify learning, to extend benefits across multiple river ecosystems and ultimately facilitate information sharing.

Under the auspices of the learning center, business, community and political leaders will be engaged in the adaptive management of great river ecosystems, and collective thinking will evolve as ideas are implemented over time. Access to this information will be available to all stakeholders that work on river conservation around the world. Learning will be planned, deliberate and easily shared. Conservancy projects will contribute to the objectives of the Center, offer opportunities to collaborate on the evolution of ideas, and serve as trial demonstration areas.

International conferences and web-based communications will support regular, inclusive discussions about best practices and emerging issues among great river communities. Integrated teams will work to address common concerns across multiple river ecosystems, and report progress at multiple scales. As a result of the integrated effort, the conservation of ecological services will become a key driver of public policy.

The learning center model adds an important dimension to the Great Rivers Partnership by ensuring that projects on three continents are integrated, as they each address the growing threats to large rivers around the world.

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The Nature Conservancy is a leading international, non-profit organization that preserves the plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 15 million acres in the United States and have helped to preserve more than 102 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Visit us on the Web at nature.org.