executive director’s letter

As I reflect on the past year, one where we have traversed countless challenges, I am proud of the Pennsylvania & Delaware team’s strength and resilience. I am grateful to our donors, partners, and friends who ensure our critical conservation work continues and that we can have the greatest impact on our lands and waters.

2020 was a tumultuous year as we navigated the global pandemic, extreme political divisions, and glaring illustrations of racial injustice. Yet through this, we have seen that our work, our teams, and our planet are incredibly resilient, and I enter this new year with hope and optimism. I wish you—the dedicated supporters of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Pennsylvania and Delaware—have weathered these storms well enough and potentially emerged even stronger with a renewed sense of a brighter future.

Despite all these challenges, we have many accomplishments to share from last year. At the beginning of 2020, TNC merged the Delaware and Pennsylvania chapters to have a greater impact on people and nature in our region. We know that rivers, forests, and the wildlife that call them home do not abide by our geographic borders. Large-scale conservation efforts require working across our human-made borders, economic sectors, and political aisles, which we continue to do with the greatest possible efficiency.

Perhaps the most exciting announcement is that we have completed a once in a lifetime accomplishment with the purchase of the roughly 1,100-acre parcel of forest adjacent to our existing Cove Mountain Preserve, which has quadrupled the property size. The Cove Mountain Preserve expansion has now created a contiguous 14-mile corridor of protected lands across the Kittatinny Ridge, connecting the preserve to state game lands and TNC easements conserving a corridor of global significance and a place for wildlife to move in response to a changing climate.

TNC is tackling some of the toughest challenges facing people and nature today. Now is the time to work together to dramatically decrease the rate of biodiversity loss and drastically cut carbon emissions—the health of our planet depends on it. The work highlighted in this report would not have been possible without your help, and we are truly thankful.

Lori Brennan, Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania & Delaware
2021 marks a new chapter in my life as a passionate conservationist as I take the reigns as chair of the board of the Pennsylvania & Delaware chapter. I begin in this role by thanking former board chair Marika Schoolar for her service to nature—in particular—for shepherding the successful merger of the Pennsylvania and Delaware chapters just last winter.

As we reflect back on 2020 and look forward to the years ahead, it has been a challenging time (hyperbolic understatement) and still I have many reasons for optimism. I believe one silver lining from the challenges of the past year has been the focus on climate and conservation. From NGOs, to a new administration to corporate responsibility, the vast majority of the world sees the importance of the work we do.

We all support TNC for various reasons—but we share the desire to positively impact the outcome for our planet. So much stems from climate change: inequality, global instability, and economic impacts, to name a few. For me, the environment and climate change are the defining issues of our generation with significant and irreversible consequences for future generations.

Our work for TNC has always been important, so I won’t say it’s more important now than ever, but it is essential and right. We are an organization with great expertise, led by science to support a centrist, pragmatic approach to solve problems and the work we do here in Delaware and Pennsylvania is critical.

As we move through this year, I look forward to serving where we, as a community, will go and what we will achieve. By continuing our innovative programs and raising our collective voice, together we will make a great impact!

Thank you as always for being a part of TNC community and I wish the very best to you and yours. I am more than optimistic that together we will do our part to change the world for the better.
We're thankful that nature was able to provide solace to the countless people who benefitted from fresh air, open space and mental rejuvenation during a tumultuous year. Publicly owned lands were barely able to keep up with the influx of visitors seeking respite. TNC is proud to provide outdoor recreational opportunities at 14 public-access preserves across Pennsylvania and Delaware. To find a TNC preserve to explore, go to nature.org/PApreserves or nature.org/DEpreserves.
2020 at a glance

1 Allegheny River Kinzua Dam Adaptive Management Plan

In 2020, we completed a new, adaptive management plan for the Kinzua Dam, located on the upper Allegheny River, which will improve the operations of that dam for downstream wildlife. This work is part of a larger partnership between TNC and the Army Corps of Engineers called the Sustainable Rivers Program.

PHOTO A closeup of the outflow during a test release on the Kinzua Dam, located on the upper Allegheny River. © TNC

2 Cove Mountain Preserve Expansion

Thanks to support from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and numerous other generous individuals, we raised enough funds to purchase the nearly 1,100-acre parcel adjacent to our existing Cove Mountain Preserve—quadrupling the size of the property. This land protection project now creates a 14-mile corridor of protected lands along the Kittatinny Ridge.

PHOTO An angler fly fishes on the Susquehanna River with Cove Mountain in the background. © Matt Kane/TNC

3 Alliance for Watershed Education

In 2020, Delaware Alliance for Watershed Education (AWE) Fellow Charlye Stewart worked with First State National Historical Park staff and TNC to raise awareness of watershed protection efforts in the Brandywine Creek, local dam removals and the return of the American shad, a native migratory fish.

PHOTO University of Delaware senior Charlye Stewart at First State National Historical Park. © Kim Hachadoorian/TNC

4 Delaware State Forest Expansion

In 2020, we completed the protection and transfer of 373 acres of land to the Bureau of Forestry’s Delaware State Forest located in the Pocono mountains. Along with two previous transfers—376 and 319 acres—TNC has helped expand the Delaware State Forest by a total of 1,068 acres since 2017.

PHOTO A snow covered landscape surrounds Spruce Run in the Delaware State Forest. © Nicholas Tonelli

5 Delaware Bay Migratory Songbird Research

In the spring of 2020, we announced a new 2-year research project being conducted by Delaware State University (DSU) at our Milford Neck Preserve, located along the Delaware Bay. The study aims to quantify the global importance of the Delaware Bayshore to migratory songbirds. A DSU graduate student caught birds during the spring and fall migrations, recorded data and banded them before release. This grant was funded by Delaware Sea Grant.

PHOTO DSU graduate student Aya Pickett says the most common species she caught at Milford Neck in 2020 were myrtle warbler, common yellow throat, and gray catbird. Pictured: northern parula. © Aya Pickett

Pennsylvania & Delaware by the Numbers

- 26 Preserves in PA (12 open to public access)
- 6 Preserves in DE (2 open to public access)
- 1,026 new acres of land protected by TNC in PA/DE in 2020
- 131,000+ acres protected to date in PA/DE
- 33 events (in-person and virtual) held, reaching an audience of more than 850 people from PA, DE and surrounding states.
- 34,000 TNC Members in PA/DE
Protect Landscapes

In Pennsylvania and Delaware, TNC is leading large-scale conservation programs that protect the lands and waters that are critical to the health and well-being of both people and nature. We work in the central Appalachians to protect, restore and manage one of the most climate-resilient forests on planet Earth. Strategic land protection along the Kittatinny Ridge and Allegheny Front is helping to create a corridor of connected, healthy forests that will provide a critical pathway for species moving northward or to higher elevations in the face of climate change.
Partnership Protects Natural Appalachian Trail Experience

Proving the power of partnerships, TNC acquired 127 acres of forestland in Schuylkill County with financial assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources through the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The property was transferred to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and has been added to State Game Lands No. 217. The parcel is directly adjacent to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and its protection will help buffer the Trail and protect the wilderness experience for hikers.

Conserving Cherry Valley

The Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge grew by 62 acres thanks to a parcel that TNC transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Together with the USFWS and others, we will continue to implement creative conservation strategies and habitat restoration projects that aim to safeguard wildlife—like the federally threatened bog turtle—and support local livelihoods throughout Cherry Valley for years to come.

Continued Protection of the Kittatinny Ridge

The Kittatinny Ridge has been identified as the most resilient landscape in Pennsylvania for adapting to climate change. Stretching 185 miles from western Maryland to the Delaware River Gap, this forested corridor along the eastern Appalachians provides a natural highway that allows wildlife to move safely within and between climate resilient neighborhoods to escape rising temperatures, increased floods or drought. Our biggest land protection effort of the year, the nearly 1,100-acre expansion of our Cove Mountain Preserve, is centrally located among the Kittatinny Ridge, where the mighty Susquehanna River meets the Piedmont region.

Expanding Cove Mountain Preserve

“The Nature Conservancy has protected another critical piece of property along the Kittatinny Ridge to ensure these forests will remain connected and healthy into the future—and with your help, we succeeded” said Lori Brennan, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania & Delaware. For more information visit nature.org/covemountain.

Safeguarding Critical Linkages Between Public Lands

Thanks to financial assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources through the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, TNC acquired 232 acres of forestland in Franklin County, PA. The property was transferred to the Bureau of Forestry and become part of the Buchanan State Forest, filling a gap in publicly owned lands between the State Forest and State Game Lands No. 235.
Manage Forests

From western Pennsylvania’s Allegheny Front, to the Poconos in the northeast, TNC works with a variety of partners to improve and maintain forests around the state. Current conservation tools include removing competing invasive vegetation and less desirable tree species, conducting controlled burns in targeted areas, and planting native trees to improve overall forest diversity, structure and condition. The healthy forests that result from these practices provide abundant wildlife habitat, support local economies and communities, filter air and water, and store carbon.

“**It’s been virtually impossible for small family forest owners to participate in carbon markets—it’s complex and expensive,”** says Josh Parrish, director of TNC’s Working Woodlands program, which connects owners of 2,000-acre-plus forests to such markets. **The Family Forest Carbon Program now enables smaller landowners to join carbon markets while still maintaining the scientific rigor around forest carbon measurements and forest carbon verification.”**

Family Forest Carbon Program

Last April, The American Forest Foundation and TNC announced an exciting new partnership called the Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP) which is designed to reach the millions of landowners with small parcels of forest—from 50 to 200 acres. Using a new approach that dramatically improves efficiency and reduces the cost of measuring forest carbon, this pilot program will verify carbon benefits by confirming landowners have implemented specific forest management practices with known carbon benefits, rather than by direct carbon measurement on every property. This innovative program was launched in Pennsylvania in 2020, with goals to expand it across 4 million acres of the 2,000-mile span of the Appalachians, and beyond. **Check your eligibility for the Family Forest Carbon Program at familyforestcarbon.org.**

Support from Amazon

In the spring of 2020, Amazon announced a significant grant to TNC to help conserve or restore forests in the northeastern U.S., as part of Amazon’s Right Now Climate Fund. The grant will be used to expand the FFCP and Forest Carbon Co-op programs; most of the grant funds will go directly to small landowners to implement sustainable practices that sequester additional carbon and earn income through carbon markets.
Prescribed Fire Program

Prescribed burns, also called controlled burns, are a key conservation strategy at several of TNC’s nature preserves, as well as at some publicly and privately managed lands in Pennsylvania and Delaware. We proudly work with partners to safely return fire to the landscape in ways that mimic historic and naturally occurring low-intensity fire. The correct use of fire can improve wildlife habitat while enhancing community safety through the reduction of the buildup of dead wood and vegetation that can contribute to unnaturally intense wildfires.

Belize Wildfire Training

Just before international travel was curtailed due to the pandemic, the PA/DE chapter sent three staff to the Belize Wildfire Training. The focus was developing leadership skills and gaining critical fire suppression skills, especially for women working in fire at TNC. Natasha Whetzel attended as a crew coach, Elizabeth Hanson attended as a student, and Jenny Case served as the workshops’ Fire Training Specialist.

Working Woodlands

In spite of delays due to COVID-19, we completed our first carbon inventory at our West Branch Preserve, which is situated in the heart of Pennsylvania’s High Allegheny Plateau. In August, TNC Land Steward & Fire Specialist George Gress reported exciting news from our chestnut orchard, planted in 2006 at the West Branch Forest Preserve. “There are four trees that are producing chestnuts, and we will be checking back on them in early fall to harvest seeds for the next generation of chestnut trees,” said George. These blight-resistant seeds, made possible thanks to a longtime partnership with The American Chestnut Foundation, are the next big step in our efforts to restore chestnuts to our eastern forests.

During the 2020 fire season we completed 1,565 acres of prescribed burns
Support Regenerative Agriculture

The world’s population is growing, and so is the demand for food. Over the past century, agriculture has become the dominant land use and largest source of freshwater pollution across the globe and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, where a significant portion of Pennsylvania and Delaware drain. Despite the fact that the human population in the region has more than doubled in the past 50 years, water quality in the Bay has actually improved. How have farmers contributed to this great success story? The answer is regenerative agriculture—a method of food production that incorporates practices that improve biodiversity, water quality and climate resiliency on farmland.

4R Advocate of the Year

In 2020, TNC submitted a nomination to The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) on behalf of farmer Mike Kurek and his crop advisors at The Mill to receive the TFI “4R Advocate of the Year” award. The “4Rs” are a framework of agricultural nutrient management best practices. Our nomination was approved, and for the first time ever, a Pennsylvania farmer received this prestigious award from TFI. Learn more about our ag program at nature.org/PAagriculture.

Supporting Farmers, Cleaner Waters

Last year, TNC continued to work with a network of partners in the Pennsylvania 4R Alliance to produce workshops and training videos that provide education and technical assistance to farmers that are implementing advanced nutrient stewardship practices on their farms. These practices keep fertilizer and soil on the farm fields and out of local waterways, which means cleaner water for the people and wildlife that live downstream.
Precision nutrient application is the core premise behind 4R nutrient management, which aims to match fertilizer applications to crop needs. The “4Rs” are using the right source of fertilizer, applied at the right time, right rate, and right place. Applying just what the plants need when they need it means fewer nutrients leaving the field and savings for farmers.

Practices to improve soil health such as planting cover crops and avoiding unnecessary tillage help to maintain living roots in the soil that absorb remaining nutrients after the growing season, while also promoting soil microbial life, storing water, reducing erosion, and capturing carbon.

Creating natural buffers and filter strips of vegetation and trees near the edges of farm fields traps nutrients and sediments leaving fields after storms before they flow into waterways, while also providing valuable habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

Precision water management improves yields by maintaining ideal soil moisture conditions, both through irrigation to provide water during droughts and through terraces, swales, and drainage ditches to remove and slow water after storms.
Restore Healthy Rivers

Major waterways like the Delaware River and Upper Ohio River provide fresh drinking water to millions of people and are home to a huge array of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. TNC is strategically protecting land in the headwaters of these rivers, while working with partners like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve the operation of dams and reservoirs to meet the needs of communities while maintaining healthy river systems.

Safety First at Eales Preserve

In the summer of 2020, we began to draw down the water levels behind the dam located on Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain to ensure the safety of visitors and local wildlife. Given the increasing frequency of sustained storm events, lowering the water level enough to take the pressure off the face of the more than 100-year-old dam was determined to be the best course of action following consultation with professional engineers and state agencies. Moving forward, TNC will develop a long-term habitat aquatic habitat restoration plan for the dam.

Migratory Fish in the Delaware

For more than a century, the population of American Shad has been on the decline. However, TNC, along with Drexel University’s Academy of Natural Sciences and the Wildlands Conservancy, have been looking to change that. Thanks to a two-year grant from The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we are now halfway through a plan of prioritizing restoration activities in and along the Delaware River—an essential river to the life cycle of American Shad.

The project involves identifying key tributaries within the Delaware River basin where restoration holds the most potential for increasing numbers of shad and local migratory fish. By prioritizing areas that are critical to the life cycles of these migratory fish, like areas where spawning takes place, there is hope the populations of the fish will eventually restore to their once booming numbers.

TNC and partners remain enthusiastic that by focusing on the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi, the Delaware, the fish will have the access they need in order to swim from the open ocean to their natal river waters.
World Fish Migration Day

We celebrated World Fish Migration Day a little differently in 2020. As part of the Films Across Borders film festival hosted by American University, more than forty attendees joined us for a digital screening of the documentary *Love Flows*, a film about fish and free-flowing rivers. After the screening, we held a panel discussion featuring TNC’s Senior Conservation Scientist in Maine, TNC PA/DE’s Conservation Manager Mari-Beth DeLucia and Aquatic Habitat Specialist Lyndon DeSalvo, who discussed TNC’s work to benefit migratory freshwater fish both globally and locally.

Brandywine-Christina Revolving Water Fund

Following an earlier agreement with the City of Newark, Delaware, the Revolving Water Fund in the Brandywine-Christina watershed closed two new partnership agreements with Pennsylvania townships in 2020. East Marlborough and Kennett townships approved working with the Revolving Water Fund to achieve water quality improvements that comply with mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The Revolving Water Fund, developed through a partnership between i2 Capital and TNC in close collaboration with Stroud Water Research Center and the University of Delaware Water Resources Center, aims to provide an innovative “pay-for-success” financing technique for watershed conservation.
Build Healthy Cities

The Nature Conservancy’s urban conservation initiatives are mainstreaming nature-based solutions to help transform city landscapes and livelihoods for the betterment of nature and people. Nature-based solutions refer to the sustainable management and use of nature for tackling challenges exacerbated by growing populations and the impacts of climate change. Examples include planting trees to shade neighborhoods and filter the air and replacing impervious concrete with bioswales to reduce flooding and filter runoff waters.

Here in Wilmington and Philadelphia, our program is strategically designed to develop new creative partnerships and bring direct and tangible benefits to city landscapes. We aim to prioritize conservation initiatives that foster equitable outcomes for historically underrepresented and underserved communities. We collaborate with people, institutions and initiatives working most effectively to improve community health, social conditions, and ecological well-being, particularly for environmental justice and frontline communities.

TNC’s strengths in science, planning and partnerships are changing the design of cities now and into the future, ultimately helping cities of tomorrow become more resilient, healthy, and equitable.
Green City, Clean Waters: Accelerating Greened Acres

Cities in Pennsylvania and Delaware can play a key role in helping to solve excessive stormwater pollution in our regional waterways, especially through reducing their combined sewer overflows (CSO). To address these water quality issues, we are partnering with private community-based landowners such as affordable housing providers, schools, and faith-based institutions. TNC is designing and implementing tree trenches, rain gardens, and bioswales across multiple blocks in the city that will filter stormwater pollution, restore urban habitat and create new green spaces which help improve climate resilience. In 2020, we completed a year-long design process for over a dozen projects in West Philadelphia and Northeast Philadelphia and kicked off construction on our NE Philadelphia projects with Holmesburg Baptist Church and Holmesburg Christian Academy, a K-8 school. We also received funding for a new series of projects in the Hunting Park neighborhood in North Philadelphia. Learn more about our urban conservation efforts in Philadelphia at nature.org/PAurban.
Stream Stewards Success

Since 2016, over 45 Stream Stewards volunteers completed 540 hours of training and contributed over 1,000 hours of water quality monitoring to provide important data for understanding how to improve and protect water quality in the Brandywine-Christina watershed in northern Delaware. All volunteer activities were suspended for several months in First State National Historical Park, where Stream Steward water quality monitoring takes place. As soon as we could resume monitoring in the summer, the Stream Stewards volunteers worked with TNC and National Park staff to comply with both organizations’ COVID-19 policies to safely return to the field to continue data collection, demonstrating this group’s level of commitment to the program and contribution to science-based conservation. To learn how to volunteer, visit nature.org/pavolunteer or nature.org/devolunteer.

our incredible volunteers

We’re thankful for the dedicated volunteers who are willing to give their time and talents throughout the year and despite the pandemic, 318 people in Pennsylvania and Delaware still managed to volunteer for us in 2020. Some traditional volunteer work was able to continue in a safe, limited capacity which included the usual trash clean-ups, trail clearings and maintenance. We also took advantage of new ways to engage our volunteers with various virtual events and online projects.

45
The number of years our longest-serving volunteer, Joyce Stone, has been an active ambassador for the Woodbourne Forest & Wildlife Preserve.

2.07 tons of trash collected along local waterways and at TNC Preserves across Pennsylvania & Delaware during our virtual stream cleanup event in the fall.
our generous supporters

Like many of you, John and Ellie Harding enjoy spending their free time immersed in nature—especially when birding is involved. They've traveled to the Everglades, TNC’s Ramsey Canyon Preserve in Arizona, Australia, and beyond, relishing the unique landscapes and fowl they have seen on their adventures together.

“As serious bird watchers—and John a hunter as well—we share TNC’s proactive ecological and multi-use philosophies,” says Ellie. The Hardings have been dedicated members of The Nature Conservancy for over 40 years and John served on the Board of Trustees for the Pennsylvania chapter for three years.

Ellie says it was during the time of John’s service on the board that they really came to appreciate the diverse backgrounds of TNC supporters—people who put aside their differences to preserve and conserve our natural world.

“We have interacted with TNC members from different regions—people with far-reaching political opinions,” says Ellie. “Conservation issues can, and should be, bi-partisan if we are to get things done—leaving our planet better for the next generations.”

—John and Ellie Harding, 
TNC Members Since 1981, Legacy Club Members

Creating Your Legacy

By joining TNC’s Legacy Club, you are making a lasting commitment that will help protect the lands and waters you love for generations to come. “I am very pleased to serve as the Trustee Legacy Ambassador for the PA/DE Chapter,” says Ted Daeschler, board member. “Planned giving is a crucial part of the TNC funding formula, and personally it is a way to build an enduring legacy within the organization. Bottom line, it helps provide peace of mind that you will be leaving the world a better place.”

To learn more about becoming a Legacy Club Member, please visit nature.org/legacy or email at us at: pa_chapter@tnc.org or delaware@tnc.org

Ted Daeschler

“From protecting sensitive lands to TNC’s reforestation programs, it makes me feel very good to be a small link in such a successful chain. I would highly recommend volunteering a day to nature. It has certainly inspired me.” —Clyde Mellin

As a neighbor of TNC’s Middleford North Preserve, Clyde has helped keep a watchful eye on the property for more than 20 years. Land Steward Natasha Whetzel noted that Clyde’s knowledge of the natural history of the area has been an invaluable resource, in addition to countless hours he has volunteered performing a wide variety of tasks, from planting trees to cleaning bird houses (above) and helping with construction projects. Read a longer profile of Clyde at nature.org/devolunteer
treasured resources: our preserves

Our nature preserves, scattered across Pennsylvania and Delaware, provide value in many ways. They afford opportunities for us to study the natural world and to experiment with new restoration techniques; provide a protected space for wildlife among ever-increasing development; and, allow for free outdoor recreational opportunities for our neighbors. Thanks to the longtime support of people like you, our preserves have become treasured natural resources in their communities and we look forward to showcasing these lands well into the future.

Members of our leadership team were pleased to safely host TNC’s new CEO Jennifer Morris (left) at our Cove Mountain Preserve in July 2020. Executive Director Lori Brennan (right) and Deputy Executive Director Donna Bowers (center) hiked with Jen on the current trails and discussed the chapter’s exciting expansion plans that will permanently protect the adjacent property from development.

“A couple of years ago we hired a contractor to treat invasive species at our Cove Mountain Preserve, including ailanthus (Tree of Heaven),” says TNC land steward Elizabeth Hanson. “Two years later the trees are dead, brittle, and often come down during high wind events—sometimes across our hiking trails which require removal by staff members, like me. Ailanthus is native to east Asia and is a host to another invasive: spotted lanternfly. By removing the host tree [of the SLF] we may have saved the property from becoming infested.”
Thanks to your generosity, you are supporting the most effective solutions to the environment’s most pressing challenges. No other nonprofit has done more to advance conservation around the world. That’s why your contribution is so much more than charity; it’s an investment in the future of our planet.

Please support our work in Pennsylvania and Delaware at nature.org/pagiving | nature.org/degiving

looking ahead: 2021 and beyond

Planning for Our Future

In 2021, our staff and board members will complete the first strategic plan since the Pennsylvania and Delaware chapters merged in January 2020. This 3-year comprehensive and actionable plan will unify our team around shared goals and will map out new conservation priorities in Delaware and Pennsylvania, identifying the unique ways we can have the greatest conservation impact from the Delaware Bay to the Appalachian mountains.

Exciting New Phase at Cove Mountain Preserve

After many months of hard work and generous support from people like you, in February 2021 we officially became the proud new owners of the 1,000+ acres of forest adjacent to our 350-acre Cove Mountain Preserve. In the months ahead we’ll move forward with our planning process which will include considerations of public recreational opportunities, including new trails that will connect to existing ones.
Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Our vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.