



Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

From Our Executive Director

I write to you with a sense of hope. Not blind optimism, but hope, which requires we do our part to create a world that is healthy, just and sustainable. With your support, we're working locally and globally to accelerate climate solutions—to reduce global warming's causes and help us adapt and promote resilience. We're championing the NYC urban forest while advocating for its growth in low-income neighborhoods, which are also those most at risk from climate change. We're helping promote reforestation, thoughtful renewable energy siting and water conservation across India, where conservation has a big role to play in improving livelihoods. People are fundamental to our work, a point that NY Trustee Dr. Shorna Allred underscores through her teaching and research on environmental justice. At The Nature Conservancy, we are grateful for all you do to help our planet, and everyone on it, thrive.

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

DONATIONS:

Go to nature.org/newyork to donate. Or you can email donate@tnc.org for more information.



The State of the Urban Forest in NYC highlights the urban forest's vulnerabilities and opportunities for growth. © Diane Cook and Len Jenshel

New York City's Urban Forest, Explained

New York City is home to almost as many trees as people. (Seven million-plus trees/8.8 million people.) These trees, which make up the urban forest, provide not only soul-stirring beauty but also many important benefits. Among them: the lessening of extreme heat and flooding; stress reduction; and carbon storage.

To help support and expand the urban forest, the New York Cities Program released a first-of-its-kind report, *The State of the Urban Forest in NYC*. The report establishes a baseline for understanding the city's trees, as well as the physical infrastructure, professionals and volunteers that support them. The report examines the urban forest through lenses that include equity, policy, and funding.

"Our new analysis and synthesis can support advocacy and policy, while

making a case for ongoing research and monitoring," says Mike Treglia, lead scientist for the New York Cities Program.

The study found some good news: New York City's urban forest has been expanding and appears healthy. But it is not equitably distributed, with fewer trees in lower-income communities and communities of color. Moreover, funding for its support varies from year to year and is often insufficient. And, while the urban forest helps address climate change, it is susceptible to rising temperatures and increasingly severe storms.

New York Cities Program Director Emily Nobel Maxwell says, "With this report, our aim is to promote equity, justice and quality of life while providing New Yorkers with the information they need to help the urban forest thrive."



Dr. Shorna Allred joined The Nature Conservancy in New York's Board of Trustees in 2020. © Lindsay France; Dr. Allred with students and community members in Malaysian Borneo; Hiking in Malaysian Borneo © both courtesy of Dr. Shorna Allred.

Centering People in Conservation

Meet New York Board of Trustees Member Dr. Shorna Allred

What motivates you to be involved with The Nature Conservancy?

I'm excited to be part of an organization that's doing such vital conservation work in New York State and around the globe. I also appreciate that the organization is not just focused on protecting lands but also on people's relationships to lands and waters. Working to create equitable access to the Conservancy's 112 preserves throughout New York is one example, as is the leadership the New York Division provides for the Cities Network. That is an excellent model for how conservation organizations can have an impact in urban areas.

Are there themes that unite your work as a professor?

I center my applied conservation social science research at Cornell University on two main goals: 1) how to understand and inform behavior and decision-making related to the environment; and 2) how to foster sustainable and resilient communities through participatory university-community partnerships. Part of my work is building partnerships that respond to community needs, integrate students and community members as research partners, and have material impacts on communities and policymakers.

You teach a class on environmental justice in America. What do our members most need to know about this issue?

Vulnerable communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change. For example, one in five deaths worldwide is caused by burning fossil fuels and 200,000 die each year in the United States from exposure to environmental toxins. These risks aren't shared equally. Those most at risk are people in the global south and in minority or impoverished communities in the United States. Thus, it is crucial to shed light on structures of inequality that create these disparities and, more importantly, on solutions that center those impacted most.

NATURE
NEW YORK

20,000

The number of farmers in India now engaged in sustainable agricultural training with support from The Nature Conservancy



The Conservancy's work in India benefits residents, the climate and the world's largest remaining tiger population. © Mary Chambers/TNC Photo Contest 2019

Climate Priorities: India

With one of the world's fastest-growing economies, India is central to global climate goals. To help meet these climate challenges, The Nature Conservancy in India works with partners to expand renewable energy and nature-based climate solutions. We help chart how India can quadruple its wind and solar power production without harming valuable forests and farmland. We encourage government incentives for forest conservation. And we help secure clean water for India's burgeoning cities. In the northwest region, we aid tens of thousands of farmers in adopting practices that reduce agricultural carbon emissions by 78 percent and increase farmers' incomes. The Conservancy's New York team advances conservation and climate priorities in India with people and partners across the United States and around the world, supporting work that is essential for a resilient global future.