



© THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (KEN GEIGER)

# The Nature Conservancy in Europe

**T**HE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC) is a global science-based nature conservation organization with a proven track record of on-the-ground success spanning more than 60 years. It has evolved from its roots as the largest conservation organization in the United States to an international one leveraging its knowledge and experience across four continents.

Soon more than 9 billion people will share our planet and all the resources on which we depend. The choices we all make today are already affecting people's health, wealth and livelihoods with massive implications on food, water and energy security, as well as the diversity of life on Earth. At The Nature Conservancy, we are optimists. We believe that nature and people can thrive together and that non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions exist.

## TOWARD A 2050 VISION

To keep pace with the unprecedented scale of today's challenges, we employ a diverse set of business-minded, locally led, scalable solutions, based on the long term, that directly reflect or link to established global goals such as the United Nations

Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Guided by a strong, multidisciplinary approach to conservation science that engages engineers, anthropologists, biologists, economists and ecologists, we are continually gaining a better understanding of the nexus between people's well-being and nature. And with place-based projects in more than 65 countries around the world, we are able to test, prove and implement conservation solutions in real-world "living laboratories." Our work plays an important role in addressing multiple challenges. For example:

- TNC's water market strategy aims to improve the supply of water for growing populations and cities, limiting the pollutants from farms into municipal water supplies, as well as sequestering carbon and increasing resilience to climate change.
- TNC has pioneered debt-for-nature swaps that reduce sovereign debt in exchange for specific conservation actions in places like Seychelles.

- In 2015, TNC worked with the Seychelles government and its Paris Club creditors to buy back \$21 million in debt in exchange for a commitment to protect more than 400,000 square kilometres of critically important marine habitat.
- We mobilised nearly \$12 million from the Norwegian government to establish the Berau Forest Carbon Programme, a REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) pilot in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. We have since shared science, governance and community engagement lessons with additional REDD+ pilots in Mexico and Brazil.
- In addition, our ongoing work in improved land management demonstrates how forests, farmland, grasslands and wetlands have a much bigger role to play in fighting climate change than previously thought.

#### TNC IN EUROPE

Our conservation agenda identifies priorities that have impact at a global scale. Europe is an ideal platform for a transformational approach to conservation as it has a long history dealing with the large-scale interface between nature and people. It is the world's largest common market, largest integrated economy and a leader in green finance.

TNC has offices in London and Berlin. Over the last eight years, TNC has been working with European institutions and governments to achieve shared conservation goals around the world, including The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the German government-owned development bank (KfW) and the International Climate Initiative (ICI). Since 2008, European governments have generously contributed to help TNC address some of the world's most pressing conservation threats in the Caribbean, South America, Africa and Asia-Pacific.

#### OUR APPROACH

- Create coherent policy strategy for globally relevant institutions
- Engage corporates as delivery partners for conservation outcomes
- Mobilise knowledge and use science to frame the issues and inform conservation action
- Articulate a compelling narrative that moves audiences to action

Europe is the crossroads of global capital flows — our goal is to bring nature squarely into the picture.

*Marianne Kleiberg*

Regional Managing Director, Europe



© THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (KEN GIBBER)

### Western Balkans

The Western Balkans, home to many of Europe's remaining free-flowing rivers and rich biodiversity, is a region targeted for a substantial increase in hydropower development. Using science as a guide, we are engaging with major financial institutions, policy makers and NGOs to identify how future energy needs can be met while at the same time decreasing pressure on biodiversity. This will help move the hydropower industry toward more sustainable dam planning, siting and design.



© THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (ERIKA NORTEMANN)

### Oyster Restoration

Oyster reefs used to be an important structural and ecological component of Europe's marine environment. They help stabilise our shorelines, improve water quality by filtering impurities and provide vital food and habitat for coastal wildlife, including critical habitat for many important species of fish. We have been asked by partners in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK to share our 15 years of oyster reef restoration expertise. With initial work already scoped in the UK and Germany, it's likely that oyster reef restoration work will spread to other parts of Europe.