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A CLIMATE OF CHANGE, A WORLD OF SOLUTIONS

Climate change is all around us. There is no question, we are seeing more frequent and severe storms, fires and flooding around the world. And with them, astounding loss—of lives, homes, neighborhoods and wildlife habitat. Polluted air wafts across continents and sediments and nutrients flow into fresh water supplies and oceans—all at ever increasing costs to our health, security and economy. When it comes to climate change, time is not on our side.

We can adapt. We have the science, the tools and the knowledge to set the planet on a course of correction and our islands on a course of recovery—but we need to muster the willpower and invest in the solutions that are available to us now while we develop new solutions to this existential crisis.

Working with nature is the most promising and cost-effective solution. Natural climate solutions can reduce a third of climate impacts and include conservation, restoration and management actions that increase carbon storage in landscapes, wetlands and seascapes to offset greenhouse gas emissions. Nature-based solutions also build resilience in the systems that protect us from the impacts of climate change, such as coral reefs, wetlands and dune systems that protect our coastal infrastructure and communities from storm surge and flooding.

The time to act is now. Scientists estimate that the next 10 years will be the defining decade for our climate future. In Hawai'i, we apply nature-based solutions from mauka to makai (the mountains to the sea), charting a course toward greater resilience and sustainability. At Palmyra Atoll Preserve, we can study, understand, and predict climate change impacts, while developing solutions to address this challenge.

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CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FUND

Drawing on decades of experience and global expertise, The Nature Conservancy is uniquely positioned to develop and deliver natural climate solutions so that nature and people can thrive in a changing climate. Will you join us?

Your support of our Climate Solutions Fund will:

- Finance climate solutions with the greatest impact
- Build local climate expertise with our partners
- Catalyze public funding and leverage private investment
- Advance cutting-edge research and climate science
- Protect the natural systems that protect and provide for us

SOLUTIONS FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

INCREASE CARBON STORAGE TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF EMISSIONS

To keep global temperature increases under 1.5 degrees Celsius—the threshold scientists say must not be breached to avoid the worst climate impacts, we must increase carbon mitigation efforts, which include land stewardship. Research conducted by The Nature Conservancy and other institutions estimates natural climate solutions could deliver around a third of the emission reductions needed by 2030. In addition to contributing to emissions reductions, protecting forests, wetlands and seascapes provide many other benefits, such as clean air and water.

BUILD RESILIENCE OF NATURAL HABITATS

From mauka to makai, healthy habitats are better able to resist or recover from the impacts of climate change. Healthy native forests are more resistant to invasive species, disease and fire than non-native forests. Healthy forests and wetlands absorb and filter heavy rainfall, replenishing our dwindling water supply and reducing the amount of sediment runoff that reaches coastlines, causing brown water events and smothering reefs. Healthy reefs are more resilient to bleaching caused by marine heatwaves. Reducing threats to these habitats is vital to building their resilience.

DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Erosion and flooding caused by rising sea levels and increasingly frequent and intense storms threaten people, homes, businesses and built infrastructure (e.g., roads, sewage systems) along our coasts. Restoring natural (or green) infrastructure—such as reefs, dunes and wetlands that reduce wave energy and absorb storm surge—is the most cost-effective way of mitigating those threats.

ADVANCE CLIMATE SCIENCE

Our climate is changing at a pace that threatens the quality of our lands, waters and well-being. More frequent and intense storms and rising sea levels bring increased erosion and flooding, while droughts can lead to water shortages and wildfires, and marine heatwaves result in coral bleaching and mortality. Research, monitoring and modelling provide us with a better understanding of climate impacts, which will help to ensure that we invest in the most promising strategies for climate mitigation and adaptation.

ESTABLISH INNOVATIVE FUNDING STREAMS FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

As we face unprecedented threats from climate change, we need to dramatically increase public and private investment in global and local solutions. The Nature Conservancy has pioneered innovative financing mechanisms for conservation, including debt for nature swaps, blue carbon, and the world's first reef insurance policy. Identifying and establishing effective mechanisms to fund nature-based solutions is essential to protecting the natural infrastructure that protects and provides for us, fuels our tourism economy, sustains our culture, and supports our island lifestyle.

