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## NatureServe Names Mary L. Klein as President and CEO

*Arlington, Virginia* — NatureServe, a non-profit organization that provides the scientific basis for effective conservation action, has named Mary L. Klein as its new President and CEO. In her new position, Klein will lead a network of 80 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers that includes programs in all 50 U.S. states, all Canadian provinces, and 11 Latin American countries. With nearly 800 staff and a collective annual budget of \$50 million, the NatureServe network is the leading source of detailed, on-the-ground information about at-risk species and ecosystems across the Western Hemisphere.

Klein has been NatureServe's Acting President since January of 2006. Her 20 years of experience in conservation and information management includes serving as Chair of the NatureServe Board of Directors from 1999-2000 and as the organization's Vice President of Network Operations from 2000 through 2005. Klein was director of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program from 1998-2000 as well as an adjunct professor at Colorado State University, and she served in regional leadership positions with The Nature Conservancy in the western United States from 1989-97.

"NatureServe plays an essential role by providing highly credible and detailed information about the condition of species and ecosystems, in a non-partisan way," said Edward O. Wilson, the renowned Harvard University biologist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Diversity of Life*. "Mary's record of leadership in the fields of conservation science and information makes her the ideal choice to lead NatureServe."

"NatureServe's strengths are our ability to bring integrated technological and scientific expertise to bear on important conservation issues, through a network of partners that use consistent methods and share common goals," said Klein. "Building lasting partnerships with government agencies, non-profit groups, landowners, and corporations is at the heart of NatureServe's business approach. With the help of our dedicated staff and our entire network, I'm looking forward to helping NatureServe make an even greater difference in the years to come."

Prior to her appointment as President, Klein coordinated the collective efforts of the member programs of the NatureServe network to inform natural resource management with high-quality scientific data. She has also led NatureServe's partnerships with numerous international organizations, including the United

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Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

“Balancing the needs of people and their environment is critical to a healthy future for our planet, and that challenge is urgent everywhere, especially in the tropics,” said Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy, President of The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, and a member of the NatureServe Board of Directors. “Mary’s experience in working with local organizations throughout Latin America will be key in extending NatureServe’s international impact.”

NatureServe has facilitated the conservation of thousands of species and their habitats on millions of acres through cooperative partnerships, including:

- Informing the management efforts of hundreds of organizations that manage public and private lands, including the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Parks Canada, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, and thousands of local communities and county governments.
- Providing data and expertise to inform certification standards for sustainable forestry practices.
- Developing *NatureServe Vista* software, an advanced decision-support system for evaluating the biodiversity implications of different land management approaches.
- Providing scientific information to the public via the NatureServe Explorer website ([www.natureserve.org/explorer](http://www.natureserve.org/explorer)), an online resource covering more than 60,000 plants, animals, and ecosystems of North America.
- Revealing that one of every three amphibians is at risk of extinction through the Global Amphibian Assessment, a partnership with IUCN and Conservation International that inspired the development of a \$400 million dollar global action plan on behalf of these vanishing creatures.

Klein will lead a major strategic planning effort with the NatureServe Board of Directors to establish the framework for strengthening its network of partnerships, information sharing, scientific understanding, and linkages to people and institutions that will help influence critical environmental decisions over the next decade.

Major funding for NatureServe is provided by such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, the Department of Interior, the National Science Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

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**NatureServe** is a non-profit conservation group dedicated to providing the scientific basis for effective conservation action. Representing a network of 80 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the United States, Canada, and Latin America, NatureServe is a leading source for detailed scientific information about threatened plants, animals, and ecosystems. Visit us online at [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org).