

FOREST & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

PURPOSE

The Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Alliance will work to promote and advance responsible forest practices and the conservation of forests and the biological diversity they contain.

The undersigned organizations will use their complementary strengths, scope, scientific knowledge and experience to achieve meaningful and measurable conservation outcomes to promote and advance:

- The conservation of species, biological communities and ecological systems in forest landscapes; and
- Landscape-level planning, in which responsible forest practices are employed in concert with reserves and special management areas to sustain a diversity of ecological, social and economic values.

ALLIANCE

Under the newly-formed co-operative framework, Office Depot, Conservation International, NatureServe, and The Nature Conservancy (the "Alliance") will harness conservation science and business ingenuity to develop and implement a series of projects that will achieve significant positive outcomes for the world's forests and biodiversity.

Office Depot, operating in 23 countries, sells more office products to more people in more countries than any other company and is committed to the collaborative engagement of its stakeholders – suppliers, employees, customers, shareholders and the conservation science community – to develop and implement the most comprehensive environmental program in the office products industry, and to achieve measurable conservation outcomes for species, ecological communities and forest landscapes.

Conservation International, working in more than 40 countries, is a non-profit organization with a mission to conserve the Earth's living natural heritage, global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature.

NatureServe, a non-profit conservation organization, provides the scientific information and tools needed to help guide effective conservation action. The leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems, NatureServe represents a network of 75 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers throughout the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

The Nature Conservancy, with operations in all 50 U.S. states and 30 other countries, is a non-profit organization and the world's largest private land conservation and biodiversity protection organization. The Conservancy's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive, using a systematic, science-based approach to identify these areas.

FOCUS AND PROJECTS

The Alliance will address complex conservation and forest management issues by coordinating the complementary strengths and resources of each participant to help remove the barriers to biodiversity conservation that many organizations, landowners and managers face. The Alliance will focus on the following four key areas.

1. Developing Scientific Information to Improve Forest Management

- Identify imperiled and at-risk species and natural communities
- Improve information systems to manage data about these species and ecosystems
- Enhance the ability of forest owners and managers, certification systems, and other stakeholders to use this information

- 2. Applying Science-based Methods for Conserving Biodiversity**
 - Refine and pilot methods to effectively prioritize forest lands for biological inventory
 - Refine and pilot approaches to landscape and site-level planning
- 3. Enhancing Environmental Procurement Practices**
 - Incorporate conservation criteria into Office Depot’s domestic and international sourcing practices and related business decision-making processes
- 4. Training Forest Managers and Scientists**
 - Hold regional workshops to train foresters, conservation professionals, and landowners in the use of the data, methods, and tools developed by the *Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Alliance*

In designing and implementing projects under the Alliance, the participants will employ the best available scientific standards, tools, information and approaches. Together the participants will address key issues such as analyzing species richness, rarity and endemism, identifying and conserving ecological systems, landscape-level forest planning, and geographic priority-setting in accordance with conservation opportunities and threats. As an integral part of its activities, the Alliance will seek broad consultation among interested stakeholders.

COMMITMENTS

The Alliance participants will:

- Work together for a period of five years to foster improved knowledge and innovation;
- Annually review and identify activities that will contribute to forest and biodiversity conservation;
- Establish specific targets for the desired conservation outcomes;
- Annually review and publicly communicate the progress and results of the Alliance.

The general commitments established herein by the participants of the *Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Alliance* are statements of intent. Specific commitments for each organization are outlined within the individual contracts signed by Office Depot, Inc. and each of Conservation International, NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy.

Office Depot, Inc.

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NatureServe

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Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Conservation International

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