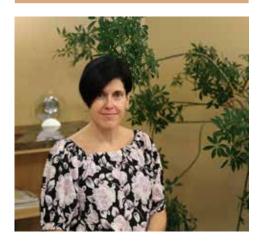


DISCOVERY INNOVATION CONSERVATION





Over the past year and a half, the NatureServe Network has accomplished amazing things. From rediscovering precious lost species, engaging citizen scientists, and shining a spotlight on the and "boots on the ground" data-gathering have a global impact because of the power of our Network.

Innovative tools such as the Biodiversity Indicators Dashboard now allow us to analyze and measure biodiversity trends for every country on the planet. Conservationists can now access userfriendly visual reports and over 300 data layers to make the best decisions for important places like the Chesapeake Bay. Our public-private collaborations empower decision-makers to evaluate different scenarios of conflicts in land use, resulting in successful conservation outcomes such as Puerto Rico's recent achievement: fill a growing need. protection of 16% of its territory.

Together, we are creating a world where everyone has access, at their fingertips, to up-to-date knowledge about Earth's unique, rare, and threatened species and habitats.

Nicole Firlotte Board Chair



NatureServe's mission is more urgent and timely than ever. As we look ahead to the future of biodiversity conservation, there will be both opportunities and challenges that decision-makers face. We promise flora and fauna most in need, our expertise to be at the forefront with reliable, scientifically backed information to guide them to make the best decisions for our planet in a changing world.

> NatureServe is developing a new strategic direction that will focus on our shared vision for enduring *conservation success*, made possible through scientific discoveries that advance our biodiversity knowledge and the *innovations* we develop to uncover important trends.

> Over the next few years, we will build on past success and achievements recognized by the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, and multiply these to

> Thank you for supporting our mission to provide the science that drives conservation action.

Gregory Miller President and CEO

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The Americas'



The NatureServe Network is an authoritative source of comprehensive, decision-quality biodiversity data. From the Arctic to Andes, we collect detailed scientific data for more than 70,000 species and 7,000 ecosystems and share it with the world.

What makes NatureServe unique is that we've established an internationally uniform, harmonized way of collecting and analyzing biodiversity information. There are over 1,000 professionals in our Network in over 80 programs in every U.S. state, Canadian provinces, and over a dozen Latin American countries. These professionals are the experts on their local biodiversity, and their information and expertise is rolled up into NatureServe. Critical decisions about our planet rely on NatureServe.



The NatureServe Network



We ask questions about biodiversity: What is it? Where is it? How is it doing? Our answers guide decision-makers about where to focus, in order to leverage and amplify conservation efforts.

AMERICAN MARTEN (Martes americana) NatureServe Status: Secure (G5) | Image by Larry Master



From visually stunning maps to compelling infographics to podcasts and videos, we create online tools that deliver scientific knowledge into the hands of the people who need it.



Every good decision starts with good information. We make it possible—and easy—for people to use accurate, current scientific information as the basis for their conservation decisions and subsequent actions.

NATURESERVE DISCOVERS

Getting our hands dirty, venturing to parts unknown, identifying with a keen eye - these are the hallmarks of biodiversity discovery, and what the NatureServe Network does everyday.



lead the full stories at ww.natureserve.org/news-and-



A CENTURY LOST

Collaboration between NatureServe and the Maryland Natural Heritage Program has resulted in the rediscovery of eight species, including this rock goldenrod (Solidago rupestris) which hadn't been documented in the state in 112 years Photo by Wes Knapp



NEW NAMESAKE

NatureServe Network Program Biologist Bruce Bennett, of the Yukon Conservation Data Centre, has a new flower to his name - after his discovery of it, the Draba brucebennettii has been officially entered into the botany books.



LEFT - The government of the Northwest Territories believes there may be as few as 15-20,000 hairy braya (Braya pilosa) plants left in existence: a new plan, developed with data from the NatureServe Network, brings new hope to the fate of this plant.

RIGHT - The Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre documented the occurrence of daisy-leaved Moonwort (Botrychium matricariifolium) in Saskatchewan for the



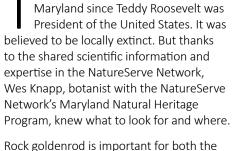
FROM THE FIELD

NatureServe Network programs are on the frontlines everyday for biodiversity. Here are a few stories from the field.



CONSERVATION CLUES

Fieldwork by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC) along New Brunswick's eastern shore, documented 21 new occurrences of a poorly understood spider wasp species, known only by its scientific name Ceropales bipunctata.



he flower had not been seen in

local ecosystem and for human health. Bees, butterflies, moths, and others visit goldenrod for nectar and pollen. Caterpillars eat the leaves and stems, and birds then prey on the insects goldenrod attracts. There is even a goldenrod spider that specializes in hiding on these plants.

Wes knew to look for the rock goldenrod because it was on a list, assembled by NatureServe botanist Amanda Treher, of 131 species that occurred in neighboring states and had a similar potential to be found in Maryland.

This collaboration resulted in the rediscovery of 8 species, including the rock goldenrod.



- WES KNAPP



INTO THE DEPTHS

Milo Pyne of NatureServe, Dusty Pate of the National Park Service, Erin Hoy and Stephanie Sattler of USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center access remote areas of Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve by airboat to build a map of its quickly-changing plant communities affected by sea-level rise.



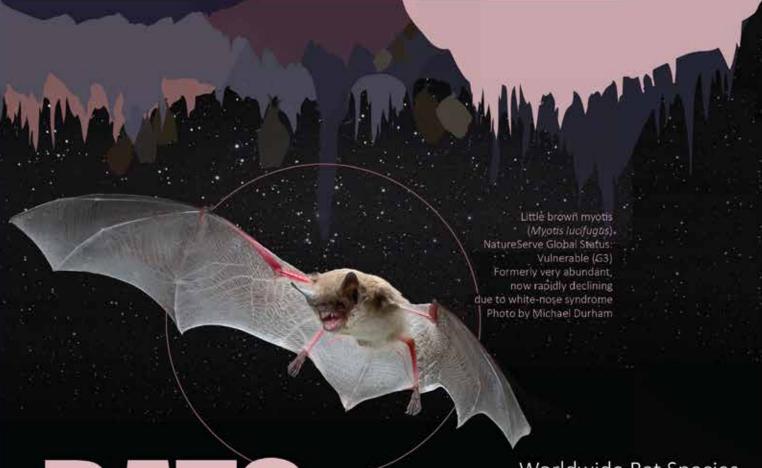
SURVEYING THE FUTURE

Antonio Tovar, Rocío Vásquez, Paola Matayoshi of the CDC de Perú survey forests and scrubland areas in the Andes of the Southern Peru to determine vulnerability to climate change and anthropogenic activities.



5 | NATURESERVE NATURESERVE | 6





BATS In Decline

Worldwide Bat Species

Threatened 171

Endangered 7

Extinct



NatureServe Network Programs Discover Bat Outside of Range, New to Minnesota and Wisconsin

single female evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*), historically found south of central lowa, was unexpectedly caught near Minneapolis, MN in early July. On a separate project in Rock County, WI, about 160 individuals were sighted during June and July.

During two recent projects monitoring for forest bats, research teams with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources made these exciting independent discoveries. The Minnesota team's lead wildlife biologist and NatureServe Network member, Rich Baker, told NatureServe about their find in a recent Q&A.

Read the full Interview a www.natureserve.org/news-and-events, stories



MAJOR THREATS TO BATS



Paray myotis (Myotis grisescens)
NatureServe Global Status:
Apparently Secure (G4)
Vulnerable to massive mortality
from white-nose syndrome
Photo by J. Scott Altenbach

WIND TURBINES >

Strategic placement and altering turbine operations can reduce bat fatalities with minimal loss in energy production

HABITAT DESTRUCTION ▶

Bats are losing habitat due to deforestatoin, urbanization and incompatable agricultural practices



WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME >

Caused by fungal species Pseudogymnoascus destructans

5.7 MILLION >

The estimated number of bats killed by white-nose in North America. The disease is caused by a fungus from Eurasia, which was accidentally transported by humans.

THE SYMPTOMS >

Once afflicted the fungus invades the skin tissues on their faces and wings. The disease causes hibernating bats to awake repeatedly during the winter; burning fat reserves and leading to mortality.

Big brown bat
(Eptesicus Fuscus)
NatureServe Global Statu
Secure (G5)
Population affected to an
unknown degree by
white-nose syndrome
Photo by
Bruce D. Taubert



Special thanks to BC for information and images Learn how to help a

YOUR PASSION, OUR

volunteers - naturalists, students, and documented using iNaturalist allows us to better understand kids, parents, and community throughout the day. Children Brumley Forest and its role in the members - spent a day exploring engaged through educational region." Brumley Forest Nature Preserve games, local experts held with scientists. How did they help? demonstrations and volunteers The data can also help They documented nearly 200 explored the pond, wetland area, inform scientists at the North different species, information that and wooded trails in the park. will inform conservation for many years to come.

bonanza of exploration to find, future. Brumley Forest is slated animals in North Carolina. photograph, and document as to open Spring of 2017 and will many plants and animals as possible become a treasured location for Many thanks to our BioBlitz in the 613-acre Brumley Forest both recreation and conservation. Nature Preserve—was organized by NatureServe and Triangle Land "Knowing what lives here helps Market Conservancy to harness the passion us take care of the land so future of the local community to inventory generations can continue to the plant and animal species hidden uncover its unique natural gems," in this special place.

ABOVE: Marbled Salamander during the Brumley BioBlitz NatureServe Status: Secure (G5) Image by Caroline Gilmore

iscovering species in the Beginning with a sunrise bird Director at the Triangle Land wild is not just for scientists! walk, over 400 observations of Conservancy. "The information In October, Nearly 100 nearly 200 species were made collected during the BioBlitz

The information collected will in the state—who are responsible guide Triangle Land Conservancy's for tracking and managing The Brumley BioBlitz—a one-day management plans for the park's information on all rare plants and

said Sandy Sweitzer, Executive

Carolina Heritage Program— NatureServe's member program

sponsors: Duke Energy Learning Outside, Syngenta, and The Fresh















NATURESERVE INNOVATES

The NatureServe Network's data is widely used - add tools that innovate applied conservation and you start to see the power of the network.

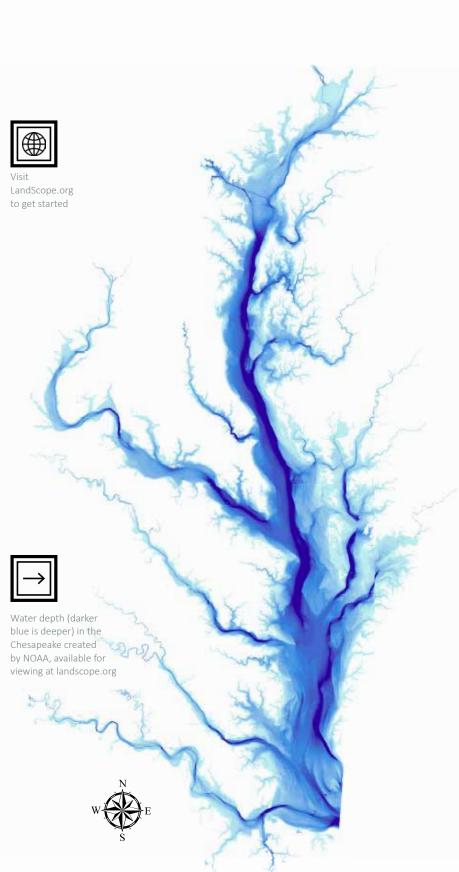
UNITING AROUND THE **CHESAPEAKE**



s a geographer at U.S. Geological Survey Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Renee Thompson is focused on conserving and preserving those areas that the Bay Watershed states have identified as high value or ecologically significant. Using LandScope Chesapeake to visualize the healthy watersheds and comparing them with the protected lands data, she gets an idea of areas she and her team may want to begin targeting for more detailed threat analysis. "This service saves me time... with all the built-in map reference layers it is even easier to visualize and answer a number of conservation related questions."

As a formal collaboration between NatureServe, Chesapeake watershed states, the National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), LandScope Chesapeake supports professionals like Renee, as well as larger collaborations among conservation partners. Together this achieves a publicly accessible, watershed-wide land conservation priority system.

LandScope took strides in 2015-2016. In the Chesapeake Bay Watershed alone over 60 map layers were updated or added including a Resilience to Climate Change layer produced by USGS that spans the Northeast. There was also incredible progress made on the reporting tool. Users can now use the map to find out what land trusts are working in the counties or watersheds around them.





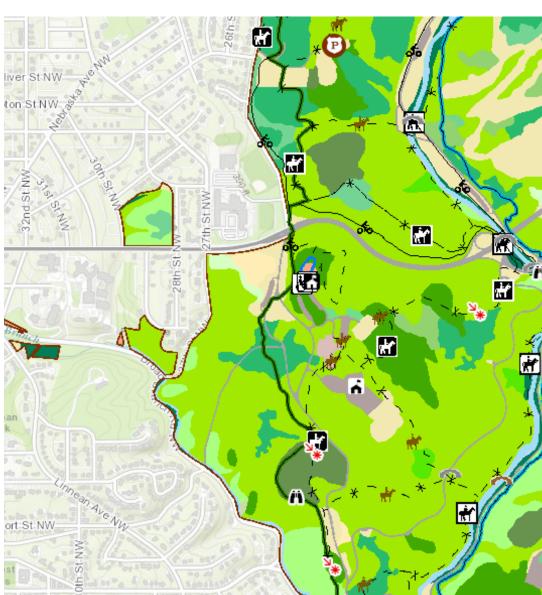
A NATURALIST

Take a stroll through Rock Creek Park, nearly 1,800 acres that twist through the heart of our nation's capital. Stop for a breather at Picnic Area 16 and scan the panorama offered by one of the country's oldest national parks. Head to the nearest hilltop—and here, hugging the steep rocky slopes, you'll see the distinctive, twisted dark stems of mountain laurel crowding underneath the canopy of oaks and American beech.

Sound like a great day? Explore Natural Communities (ENC) is now available as your pocket naturalist- a walk-through tour of the natural world that surrounds you at Rock Creek Park, soon to expand to more parks in the National Capital Region.



systems at Rock Creek Park created by NatureServe and National Park Service available at explorenatura





Albemarle St NW

Forest Hille

Find mobile accessible interactive maps, build hikes, and find markers for the interactive tour at explorenatura communities.org



The fight to protect the biodiversity of our planet is a global one

he Biodiversity Indicators Dashboard is now live. At dashboard.natureserve.org you will access a groundbreaking international data collaboration - the single location for tracking how countries are working toward their biodiversity conservation goals.

How successful are our efforts to conserve biodiversity? Increasingly, we need to measure how well our actions achieve their goals. The Biodiversity Indicators Dashboard unites diverse metrics that chart progress towards the Convention on Biological Diversity's "Aichi Biodiversity Targets" (agreed-upon biodiversity targets for each country).

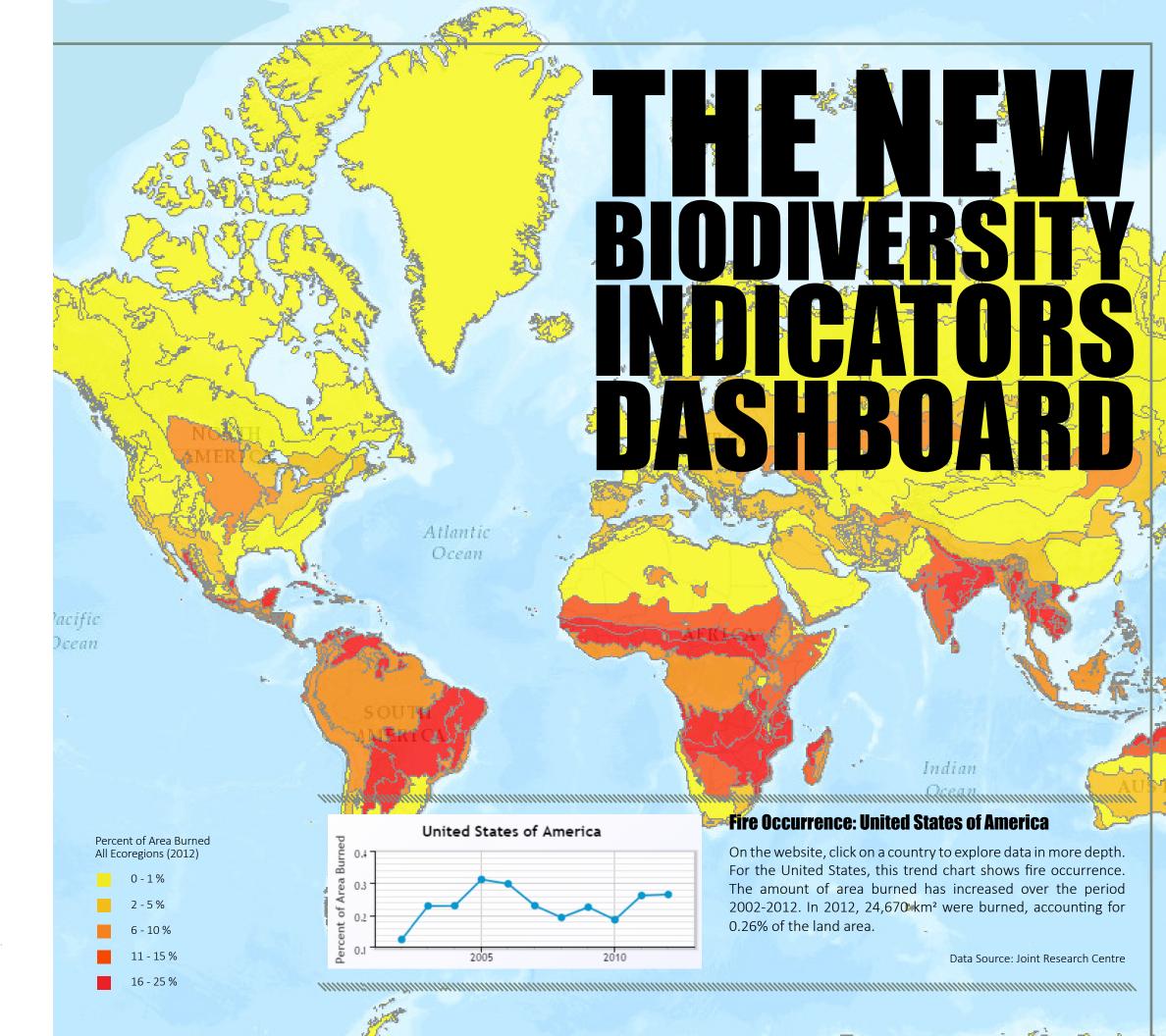
This new resource allows users to measure, visualize, and communicate environmental trends like how fast forests are being lost in a given river basin, as well as consider the effects of conservation actions like the increase of protected area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas. With these data, users then track progress toward global conservation goals, easily monitor and report progress nationally, and make informed outcome-based policy decisions for sustaining biodiversity.

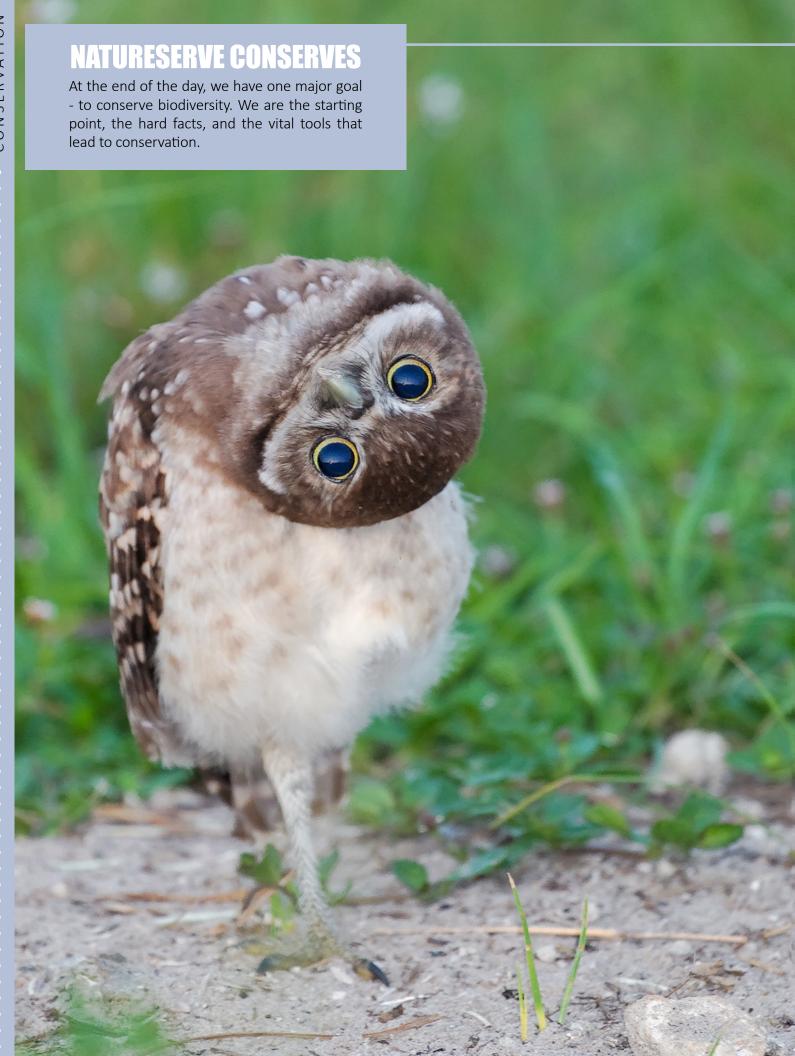
In March 2016, NatureServe staff attended a meeting in Ispra, Italy European Commission Joint Research Centre, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, and others to collaborate more closely on the development and visualization of biodiversity indicators. This resulted in the incorporation of a new indicator for trends in area burned each year. This map is now available on the site and is shown here as the background map.



dashboard.natureserve.org

The Biodiversity Indicators Dashboard is made possible with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and with the collaboration of our partners, including The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, BirdLife International, the European Commission, GBIF, IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC





HOME SWEET HOME

he NatureServe Network is using scientific data to assist the safe relocation of burrowing owls in order to mitigate harm to this federally protected species.

Less than 12 inches tall, the charismatic burrowing owl can be found making its home in burrows across open grasslands, rangelands, agriculture fields and prairies across western North America and south to Patagonia in southern South America. However, in the last century, these nesting habitats have come under threat from human disturbance which has led to the species' decline.

According to Sabra Tonn, Program Supervisor for the Arizona Heritage Data Management System at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, one approach to mitigating harm is to relocate the birds. "We've seen the burrowing owl successfully relocate to artificial burrows, abandoned animal burrows, say of a tortoise, and to more unusual places." Some of these "unusual places" include baseball fields, golf courses and even airport runways.



Burrowing Owl
(Athene cunicularia)
NatureServe status G4Apparently Secure

In Florida, for example, Norman Hegedus, Airport Manager at Miami International has figured out a way to safely accommodate the 15 or so owls currently living by the busy runway.

The data collected on the owl's habitat by the Network program has been critical in supporting passive relocation and the construction of artificial burrows that are safe from human disturbance.

These data may also inform the location of future development. "If we can properly show the areas where the owls are making homes, there's a better chance that commercial developers and other real estate projects may move to a non-threatening location," said Tonn.



Read the full story at www.natureserve.org/ news-and-events/storie





A ONCE COMMON SPECIES IN PERIL



The rusty-patched bumble bee (Bombus affinis) has been federally listed as an endangered species in the U.S., reflecting its high degree of imperilment and NatureServe G1 - Critically Imperiled rank | Photo by USGS

he NatureServe Network has worked diligently to track the rusty-patched bumble bee across its range in eastern and central North America. Bearing witness to one of the most dramatic species declines in recorded history, NatureServe assessed the species as G1- Critically Imperiled.

NatureServe scientists have found that what was once was a very widespread bumble bee has suffered a catastrophic decline that started in the late 1990s. The decline, in numbers and area of occupancy, has almost certainly been over 99% and reduction in range extent around 90% over a period of less than a decade.

The rusty-patched bumble bee may be well on the way to extinction, perhaps within the current decade, but other outcomes are possible. With information from the NatureServe Network, the species has been federally listed and is now protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as of March 2017. Listing is just the first step. Swift and intense conservation actions are needed to save this species and related bumble bees, some of our most important pollinators, from extinction.

PROTECTING PUERTO RICO

uerto Rico's Protected Areas Conservation Action Team (PA-CAT), celebrated the announcement that Puerto Rico has achieved protection of 16% of its territory. The decisions about which lands to protect were based on sound science from the NatureServe Network.

Para La Naturaleza, a non-profit conservation organization and member of the PA-CAT, worked with NatureServe to develop a balanced approach to Puerto Rico's national land use plan, which helps to conserve iconic Puerto Rican species like coquií tree frogs and the Puerto Rican parrot. NatureServe helped them evaluate different scenarios of conflicts in land use, identify how well the plan would conserve biodiversity and where key conflicts might remain.

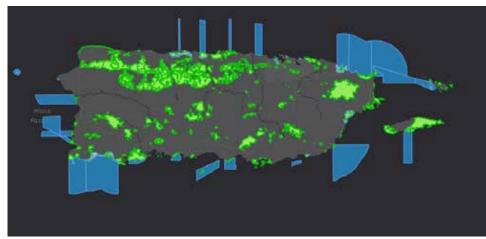
Fernando Lloveras San Miguel, President of Para La Naturaleza celebrated this "as a major step in our mission to achieve the protection of 33 percent of our territory for 2033. Our commitment is to keep moving us in this direction to protect the vital ecosystems that Puerto Rico needs to survive, while we strengthen our position as a destination for nature."



Puerto
Rico
protects
16 % of its
territory



The Puerto Rican rock frog (*Eleuthero dactylus cooki*) has been federally listed as a threatened species in the U.S. | Photo by USEWS



Protected Areas
Marine
Terrestrial

This map shows the protected areas in Puerto Rico now making up 16% of its territory



SHARING A COMMON LANGUAGE

Data from a single jurisdiction paints only part of the picture about most species and ecological communities. Training people in the use of standards allows NatureServe to combine biodiversity data sets across boundaries.



CORE METHODOLOGY TRAINING

It is a warm, sunny day in April, and two white vans filled with ecologists, botanists, zoologists, GIS specialists, data managers, and other conservation professionals head to the Maryland side of Great Falls National Park. The site on Cabin John Island is a floodplain forest home to a unique mix of species including the vulnerable buttercup scorpionweed (Phacelia covillei) and the beautiful white trout-lily (Erythronium albidum). This group is attending the first day of the 2016 Core Methodology Training (CMT) - a training session that has been offered 122 times since 1974. The trainees are learning how critical it is to understand NatureServe methodology when observing and collecting information in the field.

Over the past 40 years, NatureServe has developed, and refined, the methods that inform how species and ecosystems are tracked using Biotics 5, a spatially-based data management system, so that the data are comparable across jurisdictional boundaries and create information meaningful to conservation decision-makers. Our rigorous, scientifically-based methodology is the reason our data are the most widely used dataset on species and ecosystems for the U.S. and Canada.

> Participants get hands-on experience in the field at the Maryland side of Great Falls Park



















BIODIVERSITY WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

In April, NatureServe held the Biodiversity Without Boundaries (BWB) 2016 conference in the biodiversity-rich, abundant, and beautiful Puerto Rico. In collaboration with Puerto Rico Network Partners - the Puerto Rico Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DRNA) and the leading environmental and educational nonprofit Para la Naturaleza- the NatureServe Network's annual conference convened hundreds of great minds for a week of plenaries, symposia, workshops, panels, presentations, and field sessions. NatureServe's 80+ Network Programs, as well as our partners from federal and state agencies, corporations, and other conservation-focused institutions and enthusiasts came together to discuss conservation challenges, celebrate successes, collaborate on new initiatives, share innovations, and design the future.



Photos from BWB2016 in San Juan, Puerto Rico and El Yungue National Forest

A COURSE OF ACTION FOR **MANGROVES**

Mangrove forests are critically important ecosystems. These forests, found in coastal regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, provide habitat to a wide diversity of fish, crab, shrimp, and mollusk species, and provide food for thousands of coastal communities. Mangroves also serve as a natural barrier against extreme weather events, are one of the most efficient ecosystems for carbon sequestration, and have high timber potential. Despite laws that protect mangroves in Latin America and the Caribbean, these forests are threatened by human activities that have resulted in drastic declines in fisheries, loss of water quality, and have made communities more vulnerable to climate change.

Enter Pronatura Veracruz A.C. This NatureServe Network Program organizes a 4-month Mangrove Ecological Restoration and Forest Management Course. Attendees exchange experiences and skills from across the wider network, many of whom reside in different regions, yet experience similar environmental problems. Topics of discussion include strategies for community organization and training, management techniques, and best practices for operating projects across sectors. The course also includes field trips to experimental sites at Alvarado Lagoon System in Veracruz, Mexico, where the attendees learn foundational practices in mangrove ecological restoration and forestry. Awards of completion are given by the Institute of Ecology A.C.



Ecological Restoration and Forest Management Course in Veracruz

Our Supporters Reflects 18-month timeframe, July 1, 2015- December 31, 2016

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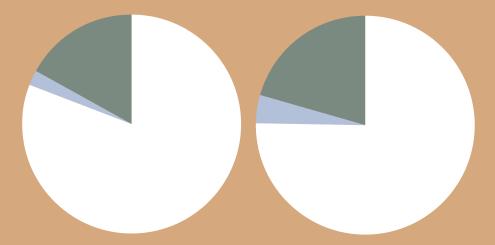
Steve Young

Financials Reflects 12-month timeframe, July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016

Charitable Contributions*		\$1,384,562
Grants, Contracts, and Program Fees		
Government		\$4,624,244
Non-government		\$2,071,254
Registrations and Other Income**		\$183,242
Total Operating Revenue		\$8,263,302
Grants, Contracts, and Program Fees	81.0%	\$6,695,498
Charitable Contributions	16.8%	\$1,384,562
Registration and Other	2.2%	\$183,242
Total Operating Revenue	100.0%	\$8,263,302

Grants, Contracts, and Program Fees 81.0% Charitable Contributions 16.8% Registration and Other 2.2%

Program Activities 75.5% General and Administrative 20.4% Fundraising 4.1%



Program Activities		\$7,042,797
Scientific Data and Methods		\$2,250,906
Conservation Products and Services		\$2,001,224
Technology Research and Development		\$1,817,097
Network Capacity Building		\$500,260
Program Development		\$473,310
Fundraising		\$383,760
General and Administrative		\$1,907,292
Total Operating Expenses		\$9,333,849
Total Expenses		\$9,333,849
Program Activities	75.5%	\$7,042,797
Fundraising	4.1%	\$383,760
General and Administrative	20.4%	\$1,907,292
Total Expenses	100.0%	\$9,333,849



*Charitable Contributions includes individual donors, corporate sponsors, and grants from foundations. **Other income includes membership dues, rental income, investment income, and royalties.





Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) NatureServe status G4 Apparently Secure Photo By Bart Van Dorp



