

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NatureServe made on-the-ground conservation throughout the Americas more targeted and effective during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. We continue to be recognized as a leading source of scientific expertise—a result achieved by being adaptable, pragmatic, and forthright in a highly volatile environment. These values continue to attract supporters who recognize how critically important NatureServe's work is to accomplishing their own objectives.

Overall revenue grew by 18% year-on-year in FY11, driven largely by an incredible 31% increase in collaborative programs with government agencies. Noteworthy programs include those with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Departments of Agriculture and Transportation that proactively identified sensitive areas for consideration in energy, infrastructure, and recreational development. Funding from private foundations, individuals, and Canadian agencies helped us to contribute to the protection of Species At-Risk in Canada and climate vulnerability assessments in Latin America.

I am incredibly proud of our staff and those in our network for maintaining their diligence and their positive, mission-focused outlook. And I continue to be inspired by the deep commitment of our member program staff, many of whom have weathered institutional changes at the state and provincial level.

As this report suggests, NatureServe's accomplishments in FY11 continue to have broad impact on conservation decisions that support a more biologically diverse and healthy planet.



*Mary L. Klein*  
Mary L. Klein  
President & CEO

## A YEAR OF MISSION-DRIVEN ACHIEVEMENT

Fiscal year 2011 represents NatureServe's best ever as measured by our ambitious annual goals. Here are a few highlights from the year.

### *Guiding biodiversity conservation through scientific knowledge*

NatureServe scientists joined collaborators from IUCN and other NGOs to study how conservation efforts have mediated extinction risks for the world's birds, mammals, and amphibians. Results **published in *Science* in December 2010** showed that protection efforts have reduced these groups' rates of extinctions by 20 percent.

Despite the gains in protection, ongoing extinction risks illustrate the need for both more and better on-the-ground action. To that end, NatureServe and its network members produced more than 1,500 **habitat and distribution models for species**, and member staff from the Northeastern and Midwestern United States worked with NatureServe to **complete range maps for all U.S. ecological systems**.



*Conservation efforts have made it possible for NatureServe to downlist the status of the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) from Extinct in the Wild to Endangered. Photo © Wendy Shattil & Bob Rozinski.*

### *Enhancing network effectiveness*

Representatives from Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Canada, and Pennsylvania teamed with NatureServe staff and volunteers to complete work on a five-year **Latin American strategy**, followed quickly by the implementation of recommendations like increasing Spanish-language training webinars. The first class of **Leader to Leader** trainees established similarly rapid momentum (see box on p.3). A **network analysis** leveraged an extensive survey of member staff to create a detailed framework for strengthening network linkages and raising organizational effectiveness. And the release of an **online library of standard data templates** represents a key step in tracking individual field observations within NatureServe's next-generation biodiversity data management platform.

### *Informing key societal challenges*

We continue to leverage nearly four decades of documenting biodiversity across a changing landscape by leading initiatives to understand and adapt to climate change impacts, including the release of version 2.0 of the **Climate Change Vulnerability Index**. We also convened an **expert panel on climate change adaptation** at Washington's Carnegie Institute for Science. To raise awareness of the role of private conservation lands, we joined four other nonprofits in developing the **National Conservation Easement Database**, a first-ever aggregation of U.S. easement data.

### *Fulfilling clients' needs*

NatureServe delivered a **Wildlife Refuge Vulnerability Assessment Handbook** to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**—guidance destined to help refuge staff develop comprehensive conservation plans. NatureServe's analysis of at-risk species on **U.S. Department of Defense** bases will enable military land managers to focus stewardship toward reducing the probability of future federal regulation. A pilot project for the **National Council for Air and Stream Improvement** and other forestry interests produced data useful for field managers in identifying areas that could harbor at-risk species. NatureServe is chairing an IUCN-led initiative to develop metrics and protocols that evaluate mining giant **Rio Tinto's** progress toward its worldwide operational goal of Net Positive Impact on biodiversity.

## GALLERY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Building Resilience to Climate Change in Andean Conservation Planning

NatureServe staff developed bioclimatic models of current and future distributions for 33 priority species from **Colombia's Cordillera Oriental**, a globally recognized hotspot of biodiversity.

These species distribution maps—funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation—will assist Colombian nonprofit Fundación Natura in managing remnants of a forest corridor dominated by the Colombian oak (*Quercus humboldtii*). The oak is endemic to Panama and Colombia and listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Species.



*While the Andean hummingbird known as the amethyst-throated sunangel (*Coeligena bonapartei*) is a species of least concern on the IUCN Red List, its limited diet makes it vulnerable to climate impacts. (Photo © Patty McGann)*

### Integrating NatureServe's Online Knowledge Resources



*Interactive lists that show species of conservation concern in a given county or watershed on LandScope America now link to detailed reports on NatureServe Explorer.*

Upgrades to the **LandScope America** map viewer funded by a grant from ExxonMobil have increased the depth of information available to its users by leveraging another online product, **NatureServe Explorer**.

Clicking on an individual county or watershed within a nationwide map now reveals a complete list of the species of conservation concern documented to occur in that area, and each list item links to a detailed species record on NatureServe Explorer. LandScope users can also access NatureServe Explorer's comprehensive ecosystem records as they zoom seamlessly between three different layers of nationwide ecosystem maps.

### TRACKing Progress Toward Species Protection Goals

Data from the NatureServe network play an important role in **Wildlife TRACS**, a new project tracking system that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently developing. One objective of the new system is to show how USFWS-funded projects are improving habitat for species of greatest conservation need.

As participants on the project advisory group, NatureServe and the Washington Natural Heritage Program provided links between project information in Wildlife TRACS and NatureServe's global species data. The live links will give state fish and wildlife managers instant access to species status information related to their conservation projects.



*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife TRACS system draws conservation status information from web services providing NatureServe network species data.*

## MISSION

To provide the scientific basis for conservation action

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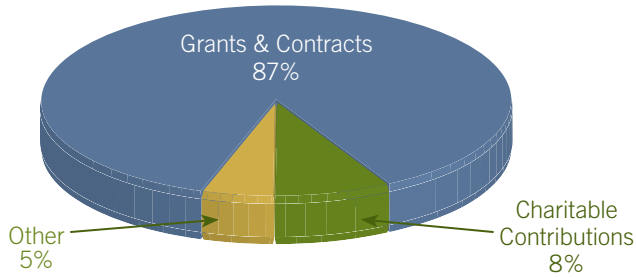
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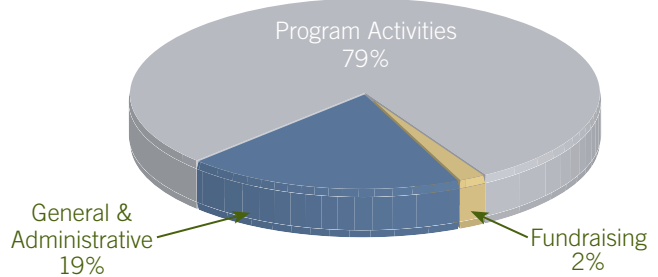
## SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS



### SOURCES OF FUNDS FY2011

Charitable Contributions	668,100
Grants & Contracts	
Government	5,802,452
Non-Government	1,836,112
Other*	430,203
Endowment Payout	<u>180,000</u>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>8,915,686</b>
Endowment Contributions	850
Gain on Investments Net of Payout	<u>583,722</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,501,440</b>

\* Includes membership dues, conference and training fees, rental income, royalties, and investment income.



### USES OF FUNDS FY2011

Program Activities	\$ 7,004,810
Scientific Data & Methods	649,568
Technology Research & Development	541,626
Conservation Products & Services	5,091,102
Network Capacity Building	402,371
Program Development	320,143
Fundraising	216,062
General & Administrative	<u>1,692,266</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,913,138</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 8,913,138</b>

### NET CHANGE IN ASSETS

**\$ 588,301**

Restricted to Endowment	850
Unrestricted	587,451

## TEAM PROFILE: LEADER TO LEADER

Expanding on a long-standing commitment to cultivate emerging conservation leaders, NatureServe's inaugural Leader to Leader (L2L) program launched in 2010 to provide hands-on training to 18 NatureServe and network staff ranging from Colombia to Manitoba and points between.

Supported by American Express, this year-long course has created a self-renewing pool of leaders and strengthened intra-network connections. With its combination of individually tailored leadership action plans and complementary group projects, L2L has already delivered on its promise.

Armed with the knowledge and skills to lead effectively, these rising stars are steadily increasing their spheres of influence and have formed a community of practice to serve the network. Two participants have already earned promotion to lead their home programs.



Members of the inaugural Leader to Leader class present Judy Soule (lower right), with a photo of her native Palouse prairie at NatureServe's Biodiversity Without Boundaries conference. Front (left to right): Nicole Firlotte, Judy Soule. Middle: Ana Luisa Gallardo, Shelley Cooke, Rick Schneider, Bob Gottfried, Jason Bulluck. Back: Joe Rocchio, Dave Anderson, Maria Patrocino Alba, Jennifer Newmark. (Photo Sam Sheline/NatureServe)

## WITH GRATITUDE

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the patrons and clients whose support helped NatureServe advance our shared mission between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011.

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Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
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