



BLENDING TRADITION AND INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: THE SMITHSONIAN'S GLOBAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The Smithsonian is committed to promoting the sustainable use of land and seascapes by blending traditional ecological knowledge with modern innovations. By collaborating closely with local communities, we strive to ensure that ecosystems and the people who rely on them can thrive ecologically and economically.

Our conservation strategies are rooted in innovation and respect for local knowledge. From tribal communities in Montana to fishermen in Belize, we work hand-in-hand with those who have stewarded the environment for generations, while introducing new knowledge, and sustainable, modern practices. Whether drawing on ancestral ecological traditions or applying cutting-edge technologies, we co-design strategies that support both biodiversity and local livelihoods.

Examples of our work span the globe. In Columbia, we've helped transform coffee farms into thriving working forests. In Virginia, farmlands have been restored as pollinator habitats. And in the Pantanal, we partner with cattle ranchers to conserve wetlands while maintaining productive land use. Our commitment to biodiversity extends beyond land—in Mesoamerica, we use advanced technology to measure carbon stored in mangroves, enabling governments to effectively manage their carbon reserves and participate in emerging carbon markets.

The Smithsonian's work also helps shape U.S. national policies. As co-authors of the first [U.S. National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy](#), we help set the stage for protecting marine life and their ecosystems against growing threats.

Education is at the heart of our mission. We work with local communities, schools, and global audiences to raise awareness about biodiversity and sustainable land use. Through exhibits, virtual platforms, and community workshops, we inspire the next generation of conservationists. The Smithsonian also fosters innovative, collaborative solutions by blending cutting-edge technology with traditional ecological knowledge. Partnering with farmers, ranchers, and governments, we are shaping a future where ecosystems and communities thrive together.



Life on a Sustainable Planet (LSP) is a vital initiative from the Smithsonian designed to advance and inspire global engagement in environmental stewardship. This comprehensive program applies the Smithsonian's expertise in science, outreach, and education to foster holistic approaches to preserving ecosystems, building resilience, and educating the world about sustainable climate solutions. Smithsonian scientists partner with communities and organizations around the world, conducting research and educational programs to shape the future. LSP programs save and protect biodiversity, champion sustainable practices, and offer innovative solutions to the challenges posed by our changing climate.