



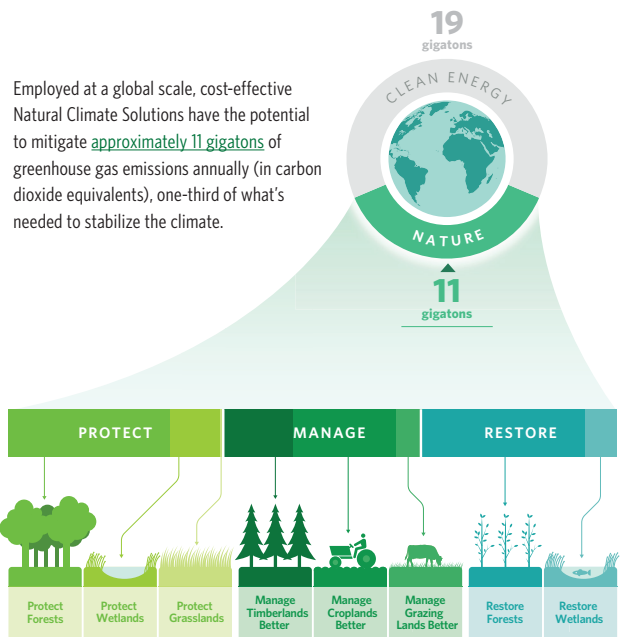
LOCAL STRATEGIES, GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

The Nature Conservancy is connecting small-scale protection, restoration, and land management projects across the globe to catalyze large-scale climate solutions.

Natural Climate Solutions—protection, restoration, and improved land management activities that avoid greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase carbon storage across forests, wetlands, grasslands, and agricultural lands—are already being used around the world, from smallholder agroforestry in Latin America to community-led mangrove restoration in Kenya and Papua New Guinea. Though local in scale, projects like these hold the key to our global climate response. In fact, cost-effective Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) employed globally have the potential to mitigate approximately 11 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, one-third of what’s needed to stabilize the climate. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is tapping the expertise of on-the-ground practitioners to help activate this potential, developing a global NCS Prototyping Network to field test and evaluate high-impact NCS strategies that can be scaled and replicated around the world.

DATA GAPS IMPEDE PROGRESS

The Nature Conservancy has a long history of land management projects, working in over 72 countries and territories to preserve and restore natural ecosystems. The impacts of these projects on greenhouse gas emissions, however, have not been well quantified, and understanding of the factors contributing to success and failure of different strategies has been largely anecdotal. Finding ways to measure climate change mitigation and other impacts on people and nature—and identify what’s working, what’s not, and why—will improve NCS implementation globally, helping amplify successful strategies and producing data that can be used by practitioners, policymakers, and the private sector to make smart decisions about NCS investments.





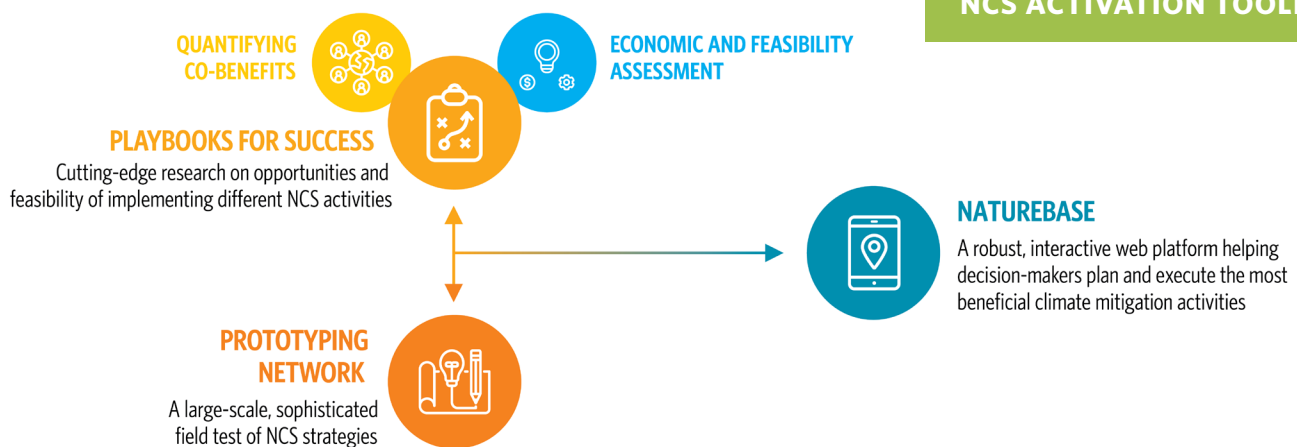
TNC is launching a new prototyping project building on efforts in Lamu and Tana River Counties, Kenya, to protect, manage, and restore mangroves and associated ecosystems for biodiversity, conservation, community livelihoods, and climate benefits. Mangroves provide important habitat for marine species and breeding fish, and a natural buffer to prevent erosion and protect the land during storms.

FIELD-TESTING AND MEASURING NCS STRATEGIES

The Nature Conservancy's NCS Prototyping Network, part of a broader NCS Activation Toolkit funded by the Bezos Earth Fund, is bringing together field staff and scientists from 15 existing TNC projects using NCS interventions in peatlands, coastal wetlands, and agroforestry systems. Each project is a means to field test the impact and efficacy of different approaches. Local project teams will work with the prototyping team to:

- Measure mitigation and evaluate project impact;
- Improve mapping and characterization of opportunity areas and carbon stocks in data-poor systems;
- Assess other key factors relating to feasibility, such as costs, co-benefits to people and nature, and equitable implementation; and
- Identify challenges, conditions for success, and opportunities to scale.

The network provides a cross-project community of learning and collaboration, and a constant feedback loop to improve implementation through adaptive management. Data and case studies from prototype projects will be available to researchers and decision-makers around the world through the Naturebase web platform and integrated into a set of playbooks for employing different NCS strategies.



“The Virginia Coast Reserve’s participation in the NCS Prototyping Network demonstrates TNC at its finest: providing opportunities for our landscape program to be elevated to the global level while at the same time increasing collaboration among NCS project practitioners around the world and providing additional resources to accelerate our program into new and exciting directions. We have already reaped benefits from our participation and look forward to continuing to build relationships and partnerships.”

JILL BIERI, Virginia Coast Reserve Director, The Nature Conservancy