
Case study

BHP and Conservation International: A strong partnership with strong outcomes



Since 2011, BHP and Conservation International (CI) have been involved in strong collaboration to support our efforts on biodiversity and conservation, both within our operations and more broadly. CI and BHP came together to:

1. Support our voluntary conservation target to deliver significant and lasting benefits to the environment by conserving land of high conservation value; and
2. Improve the management of land and biodiversity across BHP.

Under the first objective, BHP invested over US\$50 million to conserve over 620,000 hectares in conservation projects in Peru, Chile, Australia and Kenya. For example, in the Valdivia Coastal Reserve in Chile and Fiver Rivers Conservation Area in Australia alone, the partnership has supported the conservation of 16 globally threatened species, enhanced the livelihoods of 2,500 people as conservation agreement beneficiaries, generated nearly 900 million cubic metres of high-quality freshwater, sequestered more than five million tonnes of carbon and prevented over 75,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually. In addition, endowments were established at the Five Rivers Conservation Area and the Valdivian Coastal Reserve to ensure conservation activities could continue to be sustained into the long term.

Under the second objective, CI provided technical support to revise and develop guidance for our approach to environment and climate change. By applying our risk management framework, BHP and CI have worked together to ensure our conservation projects are resilient to a variety of factors and events, including reputation, financial and implementation risks.

More recently, the collaboration has supported BHP's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, including the world's first Forest Bond and a climate change adaptation capacity building program in Trinidad and Tobago.

According to Agustin Silvani, CI's Vice President of the Ecosystem Finance Division, 'From the long-term financing of over half a million hectares of key conservation areas in Chile, Peru and Australia, to the innovation and leadership shown by the development of the world's first Forests Bond, the Alliance has been able to deliver extensive on-the-ground impact while mobilising additional critical private sector action on climate change that provide benefits for both biodiversity and people.'

As BHP and CI enter the final year of this important partnership, our two organisations will continue to collaborate and work towards mutual goals to achieve optimal conservation and environmental outcomes.
