



## Conservation (non-academic version)

Reclaim Conservation's goal is to shift global conservation realities towards solutions that are measurable and higher efficiency than the current mainstream model. Dominant Conservation is rooted in colonial ideologies while modern, [Neoliberal conservation](#) operate from a corporate model of privatization and capitalist exploitation. In this document we will define precisely what we, as an organization, perceive as good and effective conservation.

The main goal of conservation is the preservation of biodiversity which is the total of all species within a forest. Conservation should recognize that ecosystems are more than just the visible or attractive animals, all species of plants, animals and fungi should be considered as integral to the health of the forest.

The goal should have measurable results which are focused on numbers of hectares protected, levels of protection and changes in plant and wildlife diversity and population sizes. The efforts invested in conservation education, sustainable development schemes, etc., should be looked at as a means to reach the main goal meaning effective programs will result in stable or increased biodiversity. Therefore, the tangible results of 'on the ground' conservation must be examined, rather than measuring only the efforts themselves.

To be able to produce positive, measurable results, projects must be seen as long-term processes. We believe that short term, big scale funding schemes are damaging conservation goals. Census and monitoring of as many key species possible is important to be able to assess the real results of project's efforts. Working off a Western, scientific model will give results that can be shared and accepted globally; however, these methods must be adapted to the different ecological and social landscapes and should only be used if led by or collaborated with local project initiators. Local observations and knowledge are valuable and should be included as valid methods (with the permission of those involved).

Nature has an intrinsic value, but its existence and conservation do not require separation from human interactions. Local people have been a part of nature for millennia and their interaction with nature is generally positive and important for conservation. However, colonialism, problematic conservation projects, and most of all the recent ideology of giving nature economic value and turning it from a holistic concept to a cluster of natural resources, has resulted in a growing alienation between people and nature. Conservation must promote viewing nature as a holistic, even sacred entity.

A strict Do No Harm policy is the most important part of all conservation and research action. For example, no animals should be sacrificed for science, and any intervention should be designed by local people to allow maximum understanding and consideration of local cultures, sensitivities and conservation strategy preferences.

Conservation can be achieved with Protected Areas (PAs) and landscape conservation. A PA is an area of land, chosen by local people that is not disturbed for any purpose apart from observation and monitoring of conservation goals. Landscape conservation is a social agreement in which areas that are not legally designated as a PA will be locally monitored with the goal of living harmoniously with nature. This may include locally initiated bans on

logging, hunting, burning, etc., and people who break this social contract are dealt with by locally orchestrated social mechanisms.

Governments' and outside NGOs' roles should be to support and protect local conservation initiatives.