



## Bay Area Non-Profit Secures \$400,000 for Tropical Conservation

Press Release

For Immediate Release, March 13, 2009  
Contact: Doron Amiran, CSF, 707-829-8102

The Sebastopol-based non-profit Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) received the first half of a \$400,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation this month. These funds will support the efforts of local environmentalists in Bolivia and Peru to conserve the rich biodiversity of their countries.

“We deeply appreciate the MacArthur Foundation’s support of our efforts to train and support local people in this critical region,” say CSF President and Founder John Reid. “Talented and dedicated Bolivians and Peruvians are working to protect these areas, and now we can give them an edge by supplying them with vital and powerful economic tools.”

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, based in Chicago, supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. Their support, together with funds previously secured from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Blue Moon Fund, will help CSF grow the program *Building Economic Skills to Sustain Conservation in the Southern Tropical Andes*. This project provides education and practical research opportunities for environmental professionals in the Amazon region of Peru and Bolivia. The result will be a long-term strengthening of the knowledge and skills in that part of the world, which cradles many of the world’s endangered species such as giant otters, monkeys and marmosets, as well as vast stands of carbon-rich rainforests.

CSF was founded on the recognition that simply appealing for conservation in pure environmental terms is often ineffective. CSF therefore implements a global strategy of building the capacity of local activists to use economic analysis in these ongoing battles. The results in CSF’s ten-year history have been striking: roads prevented or rerouted around forests; dam projects amended or cancelled; and ecotourism and other sustainable development projects supported and enhanced. Most of these victories have been achieved without marches or demonstrations, but through the quiet power of economic analysis. Essentially the tactic adopted by CSF in over 60 countries has been to deploy the power of the bottom line in the service of nature.

conservation strategy fund

103 Morris Street, Suite S • Sebastopol, CA 95472 • 707-829-1802 (t) • 707-829-1806 (f)  
1160 G Street Suite A-1 • Arcata, CA 95521 • 707-822-5505 (t) • 707-822-5535 (f)  
<http://www.conservation-strategy.org> • [info@conservation-strategy.org](mailto:info@conservation-strategy.org)

In spite of these many successes, and a temporary drop in demand for forest products, the array of threats lined up against the forests remains daunting: highway and dam projects; a growing oil industry; gold and other mineral extraction; logging; and the growth of industrial agriculture.

Thanks to MacArthur's support, CSF's unique approach will now be used to protect over 50 million acres of the Southern Andes, an area larger than South Dakota. Decision-makers from key government and non-profit organizations will be trained, young economists will be supported in their research efforts, and online tools will be provided to continue to support the capacity of local people to distinguish good development from unsustainable projects for many years to come.

"This part of the Amazon is absolutely amazing," says Reid. "The snow-capped Andes loom over steaming jungles that support a diversity of life seen nowhere else on earth. Preserving these forests will make a major contribution to fighting global climate change."

For more information on CSF or their tropical conservation programs, contact CSF Development Director Doron Amiran: 707-829-1802, or [doron@conservation-strategy.org](mailto:doron@conservation-strategy.org).

For more information about the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, please visit [www.macfound.org](http://www.macfound.org)

**conservation strategy fund**

103 Morris Street, Suite S • Sebastopol, CA 95472 • 707-829-1802 (t) • 707-829-1806 (f)  
1160 G Street Suite A-1 • Arcata, CA 95521 • 707-822-5505 (t) • 707-822-5535 (f)  
<http://www.conservation-strategy.org> • [info@conservation-strategy.org](mailto:info@conservation-strategy.org)