



DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$20 MILLION NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

The Foundation Reveals a Special Fund to Bolster Ecosystems' Ability to Mitigate Climate Change

SAN FRANCISCO, September 11, 2018 —The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation today announced a \$20 million commitment to support natural climate solutions – the protection, restoration and management of land to capture and store carbon and effectively mitigate climate change. [Recent research](#) reveals that forests, grasslands, agriculture and coastal wetlands have the potential to contribute 37 percent of the carbon reductions needed for keeping the planet at a safe level of warming, yet receive only three percent of international climate-related funding. The foundation's new commitment is in addition to its existing \$70 million in grant making to address climate change.

"It is essential to act aggressively to limit warming of the global climate below two degrees Celsius for the safety of humankind and the natural world," said Sacha Spector, program director for the environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. "We cannot achieve this target without changing how we conserve and use land. We see this as a tremendous opportunity to harness and restore the power of natural ecosystems and agricultural lands to reduce climate change. By making this substantial new investment in natural climate solutions, we hope to accelerate efforts using this strategy and to encourage other funders to increase their support for this underfunded approach."

Natural climate solutions include efforts to both maintain and enhance the capacity of ecosystems to store carbon. Through the prevention of large-scale deforestation, improvement of forestry and agricultural practices, restoration of forest and fields, and many other approaches, natural climate solutions not only offer immediate and low-cost opportunities to limit global warming, they also provide significant co-benefits for people and wildlife in the near term. Focused primarily on the U.S., the foundation's new initiative seeks to support new best practices, business models and markets, finance and policy approaches, and demonstration of projects that lead to accelerated carbon sequestration through landscapes across the country.

While the 2015 Paris Agreement is rightly viewed as a triumph for catalyzing global action to reduce climate change, best estimates suggest that the current worldwide government commitments will only limit warming to 3.3 degrees Celsius — a magnitude of change that would threaten the ecological integrity of the biosphere and likely exceed societal ability to adapt. Closing this ambition gap to hit a warming target of two degrees Celsius remains a fundamental challenge for the international community and is the motivation for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's increased commitment to natural climate solutions.

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through the preservation and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The foundation's awareness of climate change as the greatest emerging threat to biodiversity — and the need to

aggressively mitigate it without unnecessarily sacrificing wildlife habitat — shapes its environmental grant-making priorities. More than \$345 million in grants related to the conservation of wildlife in the United States have been made by the foundation since it was established in 1997. To learn more, visit www.ddcf.org/what-we-fund/environment.

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