



# Point Blue Publication Brief

## Multiple-Benefit Conservation: an approach to conservation that can meet social and environmental needs

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Multiple-Benefit Conservation is a term that has been embraced by a growing number of local, regional, and global conservation planning efforts, but needs a clear definition and a better understanding of its relationship to similar concepts. In this paper, we provide the first definition for the term in the scientific literature, identify its key features, and discuss its strengths.

### Multiple-Benefit Conservation:

*Conservation efforts designed to simultaneously benefit local communities of people, enhance ecological function, and improve habitat quality for fish and wildlife.*

### Key Features:

- Multiple goals are defined from the start, inclusive of multiple values and needs in the community, and defined in terms of their own metrics – i.e., they do not have to be framed in terms of a common economic valuation.
- The effort is designed to achieve all the goals simultaneously, acknowledging and addressing trade-offs – in contrast to efforts aimed at one goal that *may* also produce co-benefits.

### Multiple-Benefit Conservation is:

**Constructive.** It builds on related concepts like ecosystem services and win-win conservation, but brings several new strengths and leaves behind several weaknesses, which we believe contributes to its current momentum.

### **Inclusive of multiple world views and values.**

Conservation planning framed solely in terms of maximizing economic valuations frequently exclude

the world views and values of under-represented communities. Multiple-Benefit Conservation does not require a common currency across multiple goals, and because it includes multiple values as goals of the conservation project, the approach can provide an inclusive framework for engaging with and addressing the needs of diverse groups of people.

**Easily communicated.** Technical jargon that is difficult to understand can exclude partners and other interested parties from the conversation; the term Multiple-Benefit Conservation is relatively easily understood by a wide range of potential users—scientists, philanthropists, practitioners, local community members, voters, and policymakers.

**Solutions-oriented.** Hope and optimism are requirements for successful conservation. Multiple-Benefit Conservation is a positive yet realistic frame for building partnerships among advocates for different goals, finding solutions that can meet multiple goals simultaneously, and maximizing the chances of achieving multiple outcomes.

**Compelling.** The diversity of goals inherent in Multiple-Benefit Conservation can result in more diverse support for conservation projects, a more diverse array of innovative projects implemented, and more durable conservation outcomes.

Multiple-Benefit Conservation is challenging in practice, but a positive step toward more inclusive and successful conservation outcomes.

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