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**Petaluma-based Conservation Non-profit Announces New CEO**

Petaluma, CA--After an extensive national search, Point Blue Conservation Science announced today that it has hired Manuel “Mani” Oliva as its next CEO. Starting April 29, Mani will lead the 54-year-old non-profit organization in its next chapter as it continues to grow its climate-smart conservation science work.

Mani will be joining Point Blue with more than 25 years of experience working on climate change and other conservation issues. Mani joins the organization from the USDA, where he was the Acting Director within the Foreign Agricultural Service. In the past, Mani has held leadership positions with the US EPA, Conservation International, and the city of Washington, D.C. Among other accomplishments and responsibilities:

- At the Foreign Agricultural Service (a department of the USDA), Mani oversaw the design, implementation, and evaluation of a \$100 million portfolio of global agricultural capacity building projects, in collaboration with international public and private sector partners.
- As the Chief of Compliance and Enforcement for Air Quality for the city of Washington D.C., Mani served as a senior advisor to the Sustainable D.C. initiative, including development of the city’s climate mitigation and adaptation plans.
- As the Director of US Climate Policy for Conservation International, Mani organized coalitions of private sector and civil society partners, such as American Electric Power, Dell Computers, and the Environmental Defense Fund, to strengthen climate change advocacy efforts and develop low carbon business practices with strong social safeguards.

The search process was led by Point Blue’s Board of Directors and was thorough and rigorous. Point Blue’s current Board Chair, Megan Colwell, says, “We couldn’t be happier to welcome Mani to Point Blue. We had the privilege of speaking with many talented leaders during our search. However, Mani stood out as a truly exceptional candidate and we were thrilled when he accepted our offer.”

Mani brings an equal level of enthusiasm, saying, “I’m incredibly excited to join Point Blue as its next CEO. The organization’s dedication to conservation science and addressing the urgent climate challenges we face couldn’t be a better match for my skills and experience, as well as my own personal dedication to these issues. I’m inspired by the incredible array of partners Point Blue has developed over the past fifty years and I look forward to working with all of them alongside the organization’s fantastic staff.”



Point Blue was founded in 1965 and has its headquarters in Petaluma, with field stations in Bolinas and on the Farallon Islands, and researchers working throughout California. Its programs include studying sea level rise and coastal resilience, monitoring marine ecosystems, working with farmers and ranchers to implement conservation solutions, using science to inform the restoration of degraded lands, and training the next generation of conservation leaders through its education programs. Its scientists have published more than 2,000 technical reports and peer reviewed scientific articles. The organization uses these findings to address real-world challenges, working hand-in-hand with land, ocean, and wildlife managers to improve conservation outcomes from Alaska to Antarctica. Most recently, the organization was led by former CEO Ellie Cohen, who led the organization for 20 years and announced that she was leaving in 2018.

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About Point Blue Conservation Science:

Point Blue's 160 scientists advance conservation of birds, other wildlife and ecosystems through science, partnerships, and outreach. Our highest priority is to reduce the impacts of habitat loss, climate change, and other environmental threats while promoting nature-based solutions for wildlife and people, on land and at sea. Visit Point Blue at [www.pointblue.org](http://www.pointblue.org).