Conservation Incentive Agreements
A Direct Approach to Ecosystem Protection in the Tropics

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What Is a Conservation Incentive Agreement?
A “conservation incentive agreement” is a means to compensate local resource owners and users for conservation.

How does a Conservation Incentive Agreement Function?
- Establish conservation agreement with government and communities
- Compensate resource owners for any forgone revenue
- Engage community in management, including long-term employment

Conservation Incentive Agreement Advantages
- Financial incentive
- Dependable funding
- Performance metrics
- Market mechanism
Pilot Studies

- Objective: test incentive agreement concept in a variety of different contexts
- Study sites:
  - Mexico
  - Ecuador
  - Bolivia
  - Indonesia
  - Papua New Guinea
  - Madagascar

Compelling Results

- **Speed** – faster startup than traditional protected areas
- **Cost** – comparable to traditional conservation investments
- **Accountability** – direct outcome metrics determine payment to resource owners
- **Transferability** – possible in many countries
- **Rate of adoption** – accelerating as proven deals emerge

Host Country Perspectives

*Why is a conservation incentive agreement good for a host country?*

- Opens new market where tropical countries have a comparative advantage – biodiversity conservation
- Protects natural resources for the future
- Involves local communities
- Preserves national sovereignty