At The Conservation Fund, we seek to balance human demand for healthy foods and sustainable livelihoods with conservation of our natural resources. That means using conservation tools to build stronger food systems—from the land that food is grown on, to the small and mid-size businesses that process and distribute it, to the communities that depend on it for nourishment.

Our Impact On America's Food Systems In 2017

- 9,535 acres of agricultural lands protected
- $43M loan, grant, acquisition capital deployed
- 100+ food system partner organizations supported

What We Do
We use an integrated suite of tools to:

- Conserve farm and ranch lands to support agricultural livelihoods and prevent landscape fragmentation and grow local economies
- Ensure local communities control natural resources to promote food sovereignty and food justice for regional resilience
- Expand the production and distribution capacity of food systems to increase food access and improve community health
- Develop innovative, resource-efficient technologies to ensure long-term food security
- Accelerate the adoption of best agricultural management practices at the production level to protect our soil, air and water
About The Conservation Fund

At The Conservation Fund, we make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 states since 1985 to protect over 8 million acres of land.

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Projects at a Glance

Real Estate, Acquisition and Financial Support
Our Land Conservation Loans program provided Boston Public Market Association with a $3 million loan to help open the 28,000-square foot year-round Boston Public Market. In its first year, the market created 165 new jobs and sold $5 million worth of local products sourced from over 80 New England farms, demonstrating the multiple benefits made possible by a holistic approach to food systems.

Capacity Building
Our Resourceful Communities program partnered with Men & Women United for Youth and Families in North Carolina to support youth food entrepreneurship and community health through an inter-generational farm enterprise program. The Fund provided a grant and technical assistance to support youth leadership development, and increase access to healthy, local produce.

Research and Innovation
The Conservation Fund’s Freshwater Institute joined a team of partners at CtrlAQUA research center in Norway. As the only U.S. participant, we provided advisory and technology support to make closed-containment aquaculture systems a reliable and economically viable technology for producing larger Atlantic salmon. This research plays an important role in developing cost competitive technologies to raise high quality seafood in environmentally friendly production systems.

“Healthy food systems mean better livelihoods and economic vitality, all while conserving our soils, lands and water resources.”
- Will Allen, Vice President, Conservation Services

“Men & Women United”

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