



NEWS + STORIES

SHARK POACHING BOAT SUNK



Nearly one year after the Indonesian government created the world's largest manta ray sanctuary, one Vietnamese fishing vessel learned that Indonesia is taking enforcement of the protected waters seriously.

Very seriously. Last month, off the waters of Raja Ampat, local police arrested the crew members and sank the ship, which had over two tons of drying shark fins, strips of flesh from at least five manta rays and nearly 50 hawksbill sea turtles on board — a clear warning to illegal fishing vessels and poachers pursuing the region's rebounding fish populations.

This is great news for Indonesia's long-suffering sharks and rays and highlights just how quickly a seemingly unmanageable environmental problem can be addressed with political will and the support of passionately committed conservation organizations like Conservation International. And there's more good news: The ship was sunk in a strategic location to create a new dive site attraction.

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SECURING FOOD FOR AFRICA



Packed in one van, a team of seven local field biologists travels 1,000 kilometers across Tanzania three weeks a month to collect data on agriculture — all to help farmers produce better crop yields, and thus better incomes and better lives for their families.

In this new film from Conservation International, the team captain, Joseph Mwalugelo, describes how they use data from [Vital Signs](#), a decision tool that CI offers to help farmers, business leaders and governments make the right choices for society and nature.

Go on the road with these "warriors" as they help build the link between people, nature and agriculture.

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SWING INTO THEATERS TO SUPPORT CI



This Earth Day, you can help Conservation International protect forests, primates and people — just by going to the movies!

For every ticket sold during the opening week of Disney Nature's new feature film "Monkey Kingdom," Disney Nature will make a contribution through the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund to support CI programs in Indonesia, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. Funds will help protect thousands of species, including 29 different types of primates, train 90 ranger patrols, educate 600 community members, plant 9,500 trees and ultimately protect and restore 1 million acres of forest — equivalent to more than 750,000 football fields.

Narrated by Tina Fey, "Monkey Kingdom" follows a family of monkeys deep in the jungles of Sri Lanka. It opens Friday, April 17.

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BIODIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM



Biology teacher Jenn Boyd wants her students to know how important biodiversity is to people.

One way to find inspiration? ECO Classroom, a collaboration between Conservation International and the [Northrop Grumman Foundation](#) that brings 16 science teachers to the rainforests of Costa Rica every summer for two weeks to learn from real scientists in the field.

Boyd participated in the 2012 program and returned to her California classroom equipped with tools and lesson plans to recreate her real-world field experiences — and get her students excited about conserving nature and pursuing science careers. Almost three years later, she discusses how she still regularly uses an interactive education portal created by the [Tropical Ecology Assessment and Monitoring \(TEAM\) Network](#).

[WATCH](#)

SAVE THE WORLD'S WATER SUPPLY



It's hard to believe, but only 0.4% of the world's fresh water supply is available for us to use. What's more, 783 million people currently don't have access to any clean water.

This Sunday, the United Nations recognizes "World Water Day," an opportunity to address how water allows all life on Earth to survive and thrive. It quenches our thirst, supports our crops, helps prevent the spread of disease and provides a huge source of electric power. But when the already limited supply suffers, people suffer, too. From severe droughts and flooding to polluted waters and inadequate sanitation, the challenges are massive.

Conservation International's Tracy Farrell believes the global community can rise to meet them. Senior technical director of CI Greater Mekong, she offers a three-step solution that involves understanding, managing and valuing water — because as long as we view it as a "free" resource, we will fail to protect it sufficiently.