Harrison Ford, Environmentalist Helping to Preserve the Rainforest



Over the course of his career, Harrison Ford has become one of the most popularly acclaimed actors of all time. His body of work includes starring roles in such cinematic blockbusters as the Star Wars and Indiana Jones series, The Fugitive, Air Force One, and Patriot Games. He has come to embody the quintessential American hero.

Harrison Ford says he became interested in the environment after buying a spectacular 800 acre ranch in Jackson, Wyoming and developing a "sense of stewardship" about it. The "majesty of nature" there helped to sensitize him to "the great needs of the Earth"—and he has given almost half of it, for

conservation, to the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

What we do today will set the course and the example for generations to come.

With an inspiring PSA in May 2008, Ford helped launch CI's "Lost There, Felt Here" campaign to combat climate change. Concerned that the vital role tropical forests play in stabilizing our climate was being lost, Ford wanted to lead CI's new campaign to refocus society's approach to solving the climate crisis by making sure the world understood this powerful, but not well known fact—**the burning and clearing of tropical forests puts more CO2 into the atmosphere than all the world's cars, trucks, planes, trains, and ships combined**. Harrison's efforts helped ensure this critical issue was embraced by more than 190 countries who attended the climate change conference in Copenhagen in December 2010—a win for every forest and person on Earth!

Conservation International

In 1991, Ford was introduced to <u>Conservation International</u> and was deeply impressed with the intellectual and innovative capacity of its directors. Founded in 1987, Conservation International believes that every person on earth deserves a healthy environment and the underlying benefits that nature provides — a stable climate, fresh water, healthy oceans and enough food for everyone. Conservation International is in the business of protecting nature for the good of people.

With offices in more than 30 countries and a powerful network of more than 1,200 partners, CI is one of the world's most dynamic and effective environmental non-profit organizations addressing both terrestrial and marine areas. Committed to delivering results at scale CI has a long history of convening and collaborating with the key decision makers from all sectors of society—including governments, businesses, academics and non profits. CI takes a non partisan, pragmatic approach to delivering world-class science,

smart policy ideas, and innovative financial tools that protect nature so that people and *all life* on earth can thrive.

As Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, Ford has been instrumental in the organization's emergence as one of the world's preeminent forces for conservation. His active engagement on CI's Board spurred the organization to develop the relationships with governments and businesses that have changed the strategic scale of its conservation work.

Awards

Harrison Ford's recent awards: Good Steward Award from International Conservation Caucus Foundation, Heart of the City Award from City Harvest for fighting hunger, NRDC—Forces for Nature, Lindbergh Foundation for balance between technology and the environment, Distinguished Humanitarian Award from B'nai B'rith for his environmental work.

Other awards have included World Ecology Award from the International Center for Tropical Ecology and the Global Environmental Citizen Award from the Center for Health & Global Environment. He also is an Honorary Chair of Indianapolis Prize, world's leading award for animal conservation.

Riverkeeper

Harrison Ford serves as the first "airborne watchdog" for the environmental group **Riverkeeper**, which identifies and prosecutes polluters of the Hudson River. He patrols the waterway in his helicopter and received a Lindbergh Award for his efforts.

Young Eagles

Flying is another passion for the actor. In 2004, Ford became the Honorary Chairman of **Young Eagles**, a program designed to give children a chance to fly in an aircraft for free. The initiative was launched in 1992, and has since flown over 1.3 million children, with volunteer pilots covering all costs. Ford has flown over 280 children in his own time, showing them the wide-open plains and rugged mountain areas of America. He says it is the best way to educate young people about nature and about themselves.

"One of the wonderful things about aviation is that freedom and responsibility are great things for kids to be exposed to," he told Airport Journals. "To be able to see the world in a 3-dimensional way, and to give them a sense of the possibility they might enjoy that freedom themselves, if they work for it."

TeamEarth

Harrison Ford is doing promotional work for the <u>Team Earth project</u>, which encourages people to live a more sustainable lifestyle. Saving the planet won't be easy — and it's certainly not something you can do alone. That's why I need your help — and that's why I've joined TeamEarth. We all know our planet is at a critical juncture: and humanity needs a healthy planet to survive.