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JOHN BEAVERS NAMED NEW AMAZON CONSERVATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARCH 21, 2019

WASHINGTON, DC, March 21 - John Beavers, a lifelong conservationist and nonprofit leader who has spent his entire career focused on Latin America, will serve as the new Executive Director of Amazon Conservation, effective March 11. Beavers will replace Hannah Stutzman, who stepped down from her role on November 16, 2018 to focus on her family.

"Throughout his career, John has demonstrated a commitment to innovation, forward thinking, and the implementation of local solutions that have global impact; all of which reflect Amazon Conservation's values and strategic approach to our work," said Valerie Peterson, the organization's Deputy Director, who had been serving as Interim Executive Director during the executive search period.

Beavers has extensive experience protecting nature in Latin America. For the past seven years, John was a Vice President of the National Audubon Society and Director of its International Alliances Program. While there he launched Audubon's first international strategy and developed innovative initiatives including a \$2.6 million bird-based-tourism partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and a hemispheric scale climate change plan that brought together organizations from 12 countries to address this crucial issue. Previously, for 17 years he worked for The Nature Conservancy in Latin America and lived in Guatemala, where he served as the Director for Guatemala and then as the Director for Central America. His achievements included the negotiation of a \$24.4 million debt-swap for conservation between Guatemala and the United States, land acquisitions totaling 100,000 acres and the strengthening of a range of local conservation organizations and groups in the region.

"I am honored to lead Amazon Conservation at a time when its mission to protect the last wild forest on the planet has never been more relevant," said Beavers. "The conservation, development and climate challenges before us are daunting, but I am a firm believer that they are not unbeatable if strong grassroots organizations like Amazon Conservation, governments, and communities can work together to create the sustainable future we all seek. I am thrilled about this opportunity to work with Amazon Conservation's dedicated Board, staff, and partners in making true change where it matters most - on the ground and with local people."





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Beavers holds a MS in Natural Resource Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a BA in Political Science from Rutgers University.

“I am delighted about the selection of John Beavers as our new Executive Director,” said Amazon Conservation Board Chair Jeff Woodman. “He is deeply committed to Amazon Conservation’s philosophy of getting our boots dirty to get the job done. I’m certain his leadership will enable us to further our impact in protecting the Amazon rainforest.”

Adrian Forsyth, the Co-Founder of Amazon Conservation, shared the enthusiasm about Beavers’ selection. “As we approach the 20th anniversary of the founding of Amazon Conservation, this is an opportune time for the entire organization to assess the work we’ve done thus far, think deeply about what we want to accomplish in the next twenty years and organize ourselves to achieve our goals. John will most certainly be a valuable asset in taking the organization to the next level.”

John and his wife Maribel have two children, Mark and John, and live near Washington, DC, where Amazon Conservation is headquartered.

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