## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



For the Year Ended December 31, 2023 With Summarized Financial Information for 2022

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#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors Conservation Strategy Fund Washington, D.C.

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023, and the related statements of activities and change in net assets, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of CSF as of December 31, 2023, and the change in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of CSF and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about CSF's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

4550 Montgomery Avenue · Suite 800 North · Bethesda, Maryland 20814 (301) 951-9090 · www.grfcpa.com The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of CSF's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about CSF's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Report on Summarized Comparative Information**

We have previously audited CSF's 2022 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated January 5, 2024. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022 is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Gelman Kozenberg & Freedman

November 15, 2024

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2022

#### ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 838,518	\$ 1,730,349
Investments	1,597,601	1,464,396
Grants and awards receivable	-	530,000
Accounts receivable, net	312,794	166,102
Prepaid expenses and other assets	2,241	5,661
Project advances	442,480	168,948
Total current assets	3,193,634	4,065,456
NONCURRENT ASSETS		
Deposits	2,050	2,050
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>3,195,684</u>	\$ <u>4,067,506</u>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### **CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Accrued salaries and related benefits Deferred revenue	\$	38,904 231,022 -	\$ _	18,501 171,699 277,209
Total liabilities	_	269,926		467,409
NET ASSETS				
Without donor restrictions With donor restrictions	_	1,660,484 1,265,274	_	1,509,995 2,090,102
Total net assets	_	2,925,758	_	3,600,097
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	3,195,684	\$_	4,067,506

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2022

		2022		
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Without Donor <u>Restrictions</u>	With Donor Restrictions Total	Total	
Grants and awards Contracts Bank interest income Net investment return Other Net assets released from donor restrictions	\$ 269,493 2,390,977 3,792 186,306 78,730 <u>924,828</u>	\$ 100,000 \$ 369,493 - 2,390,977 - 3,792 - 186,306 - 78,730 (924,828)	\$ 897,876 1,467,106 4,357 (24,697) 26,854	
Total support and revenue	3,854,126	(824,828) 3,029,298	2,371,496	
EXPENSES				
Program Services	3,129,601	- 3,129,601	2,329,975	
Supporting Services: Management and General Fundraising	455,240 118,796	- 455,240 - 118,796	192,274 134,869	
Total supporting services	574,036	- 574,036	327,143	
Total expenses	3,703,637	- 3,703,637	2,657,118	
Change in net assets	150,489	(824,828) (674,339)	(285,622)	
Net assets at beginning of year	1,509,995	2,090,102 3,600,097	3,885,719	
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ <u>1,660,484</u>	\$ <u>1,265,274</u>	\$ <u>3,600,097</u>	

## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2022

	2023										2022	
	Supporting Services											
		Program	Ма	anagement and			Sı	Total pporting		Total		Total
	Services		General		Fundraising		Services		Expenses		Expenses	
Salaries and benefits	\$	1,689,354	\$	249,987	\$	115,075	\$	365,062	\$	2,054,416	\$	1,514,558
Consulting fees		886,163		15,738		-		15,738		901,901		717,054
Professional fees		43,387		31,444		-		31,444		74,831		63,114
Course implementation		29,659		-		-		-		29,659		43,957
Communication and marketing		22,103		11,840		-		11,840		33,943		-
Occupancy		72,352		1,140		50		1,190		73,542		75,236
Travel		199,273		23,401		3,202		26,603		225,876		156,359
Workshops and training		90,473		-		-		-		90,473		3,810
Supplies and office expenses		16,371		1,901		77		1,978		18,349		21,669
Subscriptions and publications		37,978		1,654		21		1,675		39,653		29,983
Equipment, maintenance and support		21,889		1,891		-		1,891		23,780		21,731
Bank and finance fees		10,166		15		323		338		10,504		5,243
Staff retreat		-		110,994		-		110,994		110,994		-
Other		10,433		5,235		48		5,283		15,716		4,404
TOTAL	\$	3,129,601	\$	455,240	\$	118,796	\$	574,036	\$	3,703,637	\$	2,657,118

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2022

		2023	2022		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Change in net assets	\$	(674,339)	\$	(285,622)	
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash (used) provided by operating activities:					
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments Realized loss on sales of investments		(197,336) 21,612		24,728 -	
Decrease (increase) in: Grants and awards receivable Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses and other assets Project advances		530,000 (146,692) 3,420 (273,532)		445,000 (134,116) (4,050) 46,630	
Increase (decrease) in: Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Accrued salaries and related benefits Deferred revenue	_	20,403 59,323 (277,209)		641 10,760 <u>264,795</u>	
Net cash (used) provided by operating activities		<u>(934,350</u> )		368,766	
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Purchase of investments Proceeds from sale of investments	_	(486,568) <u>529,087</u>		(988,908) -	
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities		42,519		<u>(988,908</u> )	
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(891,831)		(620,142)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,730,349		<u>2,350,491</u>	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	\$	838,518	\$	<u>1,730,349</u>	

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization -

The Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) is a global non-profit organization incorporated in the State of California. CSF brings economics to professionals working at the forefront of conservation and development so they can make better decisions for people and for nature. CSF's envisions a world where human behavior and policy reflect CSF's belief that economic development and conservation are possible together, and CSF's mission is to use economic tools to impact the way people approach development and the conservation of CSF's limited natural resources.

CSF's headquarters are located in Washington, D.C., and the organization maintains programmatic activities outside of the United States, including Colombia, South Africa, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil and Indonesia. In addition, CSF's analyses and training programs have influenced more than \$21 billion in development investments, resulting in conservation of more than 50 million acres worldwide.

Basis of presentation -

The accompanying financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting, and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) related to nonprofit entities. As such, net assets are reported within two net asset classifications: without donor restrictions and with donor restrictions. Descriptions of the two net asset categories are as follows:

- Net Assets without Donor Restrictions Net assets available for use in general operations and not subject to donor restrictions are recorded as "net assets without donor restrictions". Net assets set aside solely through the actions of the Board are referred to as Board Designated and are also reported as net assets without donor restrictions.
- Net Assets with Donor Restrictions Net assets may be subject to donor-imposed stipulations that are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Donor imposed restrictions are released when the restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both. Other donor imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Gifts of long-lived assets (with an expected economic benefit of more than one year) and gifts of cash restricted for the acquisition of long-lived assets are recognized as revenue without donor restrictions when the assets are placed in service.

The financial statements include certain prior year summarized comparative information in total but not by net asset class; such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with CSF's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, from which the summarized information was derived.

New accounting pronouncements adopted -

Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-13, *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses* (Topic 326), replaces the incurred loss impairment methodology in current U.S. GAAP with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires consideration of a broader range of reasonable and supportable information to inform credit loss estimates.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

New accounting pronouncements adopted (continued) -

Under the standard, disclosures are required to provide users of the financial statements with useful information in analyzing an entity's exposure to credit risk and the measurement of credit losses. Financial assets held by CSF that are subject to the guidance in Topic 326 are trade accounts receivable (under contracts). CSF implemented the ASU on January 1, 2023, using a modified retrospective approach.

Cash and cash equivalents -

CSF considers all cash and other highly liquid investments with initial maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Bank deposit accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") up to a limit of \$250,000. At times during the year, CSF maintains cash balances in excess of the FDIC insurance limits. Management believes the risk in these situations to be minimal.

#### Investments -

Investments are recorded at their readily determinable fair value. Interest, dividends, realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in investment return, which is presented net of investment expenses paid to external investment advisors, in the accompanying Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets.

Investments acquired by gift, such as donated securities, are recorded at their fair value at the date of the gift. CSF's policy is to liquidate all gifts of investments as soon as possible after the gift.

#### Grants and awards receivable -

Grants and awards receivable include unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years. Grants and awards receivable are recorded at their fair value, which is measured as the present value of the future cash flows. Management considers all amounts to be collectable within one year from the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

#### Accounts receivable -

Accounts receivable primarily consists of amounts due within one year related to revenues received from customers under contractual obligations. Accounts receivable are recorded at their net realizable value which approximates fair value. Accounts receivable are presented net of an allowance for credit losses resulting from the inability of customers to make required payments. The allowance for credit losses is based upon historical loss experience in combination with current economic conditions and a forecast of future economic conditions. Any change in the assumptions used in analyzing a specific account receivable might result in an additional allowance for credit losses being recognized in the period in which the change occurs.

#### Project advances -

CSF maintains programmatic activities through its field offices in Bolivia and Peru, as well as through affiliated non-controlled local nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) in Brazil and Indonesia. As of December 31, 2023, cash, receivables and other assets totaling \$442,480 were held in its aforementioned field offices and local NGO's (and have been recorded as project advances).

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

# 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

Income taxes -

CSF is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"), as an organization described in IRC Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been made in the accompanying financial statements. CSF is not a private foundation.

Grants and awards revenue recognition -

The majority of CSF's revenue is received through awards from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other entities. Contributions and grants are recognized in the appropriate category of net assets in the period received. CSF performs an analysis of the individual contribution agreement to determine if the funding stream follows the contribution rules or if it should be recorded as an exchange transaction depending upon whether the transaction is deemed reciprocal or nonreciprocal in accordance with ASC Topic 958.

For grants qualifying under the contribution rules, support is recognized upon notification of the award and satisfaction of all conditions, if applicable. Conditional promises to give are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Contributions, including grants qualifying as contributions, that are unconditional but have donor restrictions are recognized as "without donor restrictions" only to the extent of actual expenses incurred in compliance with the donor-imposed restrictions and satisfaction of time restrictions. Contributions with donor restrictions either in excess of expenses incurred or with time restrictions are shown as net assets with donor restrictions in the accompanying financial statements. Contributions that are both received and released from restrictions in the same year are classified as without donor restrictions.

Conditional contributions contain a right of return and a measurable barrier. Contributions are recognized when conditions have been satisfied. Most Federal grants are for direct and indirect program costs and are considered to be conditional contributions which are recognized as contributions when the amounts become unconditional. Conditional contributions received in advance of meeting specified conditions established by donors are recorded as refundable advances. Funds received (under conditional contributions) in advance of the incurrence of qualifying expenditures are recorded as refundable advances; there were no conditional assistance awards received during the year ended December 31, 2023.

Revenue from contracts with customers -

Revenue from contracts with customers include contractual agreements with entities that fund CSF's projects around the globe, and are the most significant revenue streams that are treated as exchange transaction revenue following ASC Topic 606. Revenue from contracts with customers is recorded when the performance obligations are met. CSF has elected to opt out of all (or certain) disclosures not required for nonpublic entities. Transaction price is based on the values specified in agreements. Amounts received in advance of satisfying performance obligations are recorded as deferred revenue. CSF's contracts with customers generally have initial terms of one year or less. Contracts for services revenue is recorded over the period of time that the performance obligations are met.

Foreign currency translation -

The U.S. Dollar is the functional currency for CSF's worldwide operations. Transactions in currencies other than U.S. Dollars are translated into Dollars at the rate of exchange in effect during the month of the transaction. Assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than U.S. Dollars are translated into Dollars at the exchange rate in effect at the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

# 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

Use of estimates -

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Functional allocation of expenses -

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

Investment risks and uncertainties -

CSF invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rates, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the accompanying financial statements.

Reclassification -

Certain amounts in the prior year's financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation. The reclassifications are primarily the result of the re-categorization of certain costs (by line item) in the accompanying 2022 Statement of Functional Expenses (in order to better classify those costs against those presented in the 2023 Statement of Functional Expenses).

#### 2. INVESTMENTS AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, CSF has categorized its financial instruments, based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation technique, into a three-level fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). If the inputs used to measure the financial instruments fall within different levels of hierarchy, the categorization is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement of the instrument. Investments recorded in the Statement of Financial Position are categorized based on the inputs to valuation techniques as follows:

**Level 1.** These are investments where values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in an active market CSF has the ability to access.

**Level 2.** These are investments where values are based on quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, or model-based valuation techniques that utilize inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full-term of the investments.

**Level 3.** These are investments where inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### 2. INVESTMENTS AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Following is a description of the valuation methodology used for investments measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023.

- Mutual Funds Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by CSF are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the SEC. These funds are required to publish their daily value and to transact at that price. Mutual funds held by CSF are deemed to be actively traded.
- Certificates of Deposit Generally valued at original cost plus accrued interest, which approximates fair value.

The table below summarizes, the investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis, by level within the fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2023.

		Level 1	 Level 2	 Level 3	 Total
Investments: Mutual funds Certificates of deposit	\$	1,122,029	\$ - 475,572	\$ -	\$ 1,122,029 475,572
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$_	1,122,029	\$ 475,572	\$ -	\$ 1,597,601

Included in net investment return are the following:

Interest and dividends \$ Unrealized gain on investments Realized loss on sales of investments	10,582 197,336 <u>(21,612</u> )

#### 3. CONTRACT ASSETS AND CONTRACT LIABILITIES

Accounts receivable consisted of the following revenue streams as of December 31, 2023:

Contracts Less: Allowance for credit losses	\$ 313,391 <u>(597</u> )
TOTAL ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, NET	\$ 312,794

Accounts receivable consisted of the following revenue streams as of January 1, 2023:

Contracts	\$ 166,102

Deferred revenue consisted of the following revenue streams as of January 1, 2023:

Contracts \$<u>277,209</u>

#### 4. BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS AND RESERVE FUNDS

CSF maintains a policy to secure Board of Directors approval for expenses requiring the use of net assets without donor restrictions. During 2022, the Board of Directors designated \$500,000 as a reserve fund intended to provide long-term returns and supplement unrestricted income. As of December 31, 2023, the balance of this fund aggregated \$605,990.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **DECEMBER 31, 2023**

#### 4. BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS (Continued)

CSF also set aside an additional \$500,000 to support strategic initiatives and enhance long-term stability. The remaining net assets without donor restrictions (\$554,494 as of December 31, 2023) are available to provide a cushion against future operating deficits or cash flow shortages.

#### 5. NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions consist of the following at December 31, 2023:

#### Subject to Expenditure for Specified Purpose

The following net assets with donor restrictions were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses, which satisfied the restricted purposes specified by the donors:

#### **Purpose Restrictions Accomplished**

#### LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY 6.

Financial assets available for use for general expenditures within one year of the Statement of Financial Position date comprise the following:

Cash and cash equivalents Investments Accounts receivable, net	\$	838,518 1,597,601 <u>312,794</u>
Subtotal financial assets available within one year Less: Donor restricted funds	-	2,748,913 <u>(1,265,274</u> )

#### FINANCIAL ASSETS AVAILABLE TO MEET CASH NEEDS FOR **GENERAL EXPENDITURES WITHIN ONE YEAR** \$<u>1,483,639</u>

CSF has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available and liquid as its obligations become due. As of December 31, 2023, a total of \$1,483,639 of financial assets are available; however, \$605.990 of those financial assets can only become available for general expenditures with the approval of the Board of Directors.

#### 7. LEASE COMMITMENTS

CSF leases office space under various short-term agreements in California and Washington, D.C., as well as in Bolivia, Brazil and Indonesia. As of December 31, 2023, total future minimum lease payments required under all leases total approximately \$10,314. During the year ended December 31, 2023, occupancy expense (including utilities and other space rental) totaled \$65,229.

#### 8. **RETIREMENT PLAN**

CSF provides benefits to its employees through a retirement plan under 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Plan). The Plan covers all full-time employees with two months of service. CSF provides a full match of each eligible employee's contribution, up to 5% of covered compensation. Contributions to the Plan during the year ended December 31, 2023 totaled \$51,658.

924,828

\$ 1,265,274

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

### 9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, CSF has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through November 15, 2024, the date the financial statements were issued.