As we take stock of the social, environmental, and economic crises facing the world today, it’s clear that our current way of life and the systems we have built to sustain it are inequitable, unsustainable, and economically precarious. For decades, policymakers have used Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a leading indicator of the economy’s general health. GDP as a single metric cannot meaningfully assess a country’s overall standard of living or well-being.

At OneNature, we believe this is true not just at a global level but at a local level as well. The focus on economic productivity as a measure of success has been ingrained in community development and conservation projects for decades. At times this approach has been at odds with traditional community values; it may even undermine the relationship with wildlife and nature that has kept species and spaces thriving for generations.

Without deeply understanding and supporting community well-being, conservation projects will fail to reverse the extinction crisis, secure environmental sustainability, and support social justice and human thriving in communities stewarding the world’s remaining wildlife and wild places.

OneNature brings a focus on human well-being and happiness to wildlife conservation and climate projects, leading to improved financial, programmatic, and community outcomes. We expand understanding and awareness of the well-being/conservation connection through data and stories that inspire hope and create transformational change.
WELLBEING FOR ALL BEINGS

Key Accomplishments in 2022:

Research:
• Launched “Advancing Well-being for All Beings” report. Held online events and received coverage in partner blogs and social media.
• Finalized a collaborative research project on spirituality and culture in conservation with eleven case studies. Collaboratively developed a program model and recommended additional research. (submitted for publication)
• Advised a Columbia University Capstone project on nature’s impacts on health and equity.

Partnerships/Wild Happiness:
• Partnered with the National Pedagogic University (UPN) in Kinshasa DRC to assist in the creation of a new master’s program “Well-being in Conservation.” Created a series of online classes for the Institute.
• Advised the partners on baseline wellbeing data collection, monitoring and evaluation, data collection protocols, and training for partners and community on wellbeing in conservation.

Outreach
• Presented the OneNature research and Wild Happiness approach to
  • International Society of Quality of Life Studies Conference
  • Luxembourg Statistical Office Wellbeing Conference
  • Forces of Nature podcast
  • Balipara Foundation Natureconomics Conference
• Advised on conservation programming, produced and moderated session community conservation at Jackson Wild Conservation Summit in Austria
• Drafted and submitted comments to the U.S. Administration to value nature in United States’ statistical accounts

Operations:
• Obtained GuideStar Platinum certification in 2022
• Published original program content weekly
• Published a monthly newsletter
• Publishing original content on coalition partner websites and blogs.

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Get the inside scoop on OneNature and the vital connections between animals, people and nature. Visit our website, subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on social media.

OneNatureInstitute.org