

ClassACT HR73 Action Group on Land Trusts

The ClassACT HR73 Land Trust Action Group was formed to engage classmates, other Harvard alumni, and Harvard resources in a holistic approach to informing and delivering sustainable Climate Action. We are working to create projects and tools to support local, national and international opportunities for biodiversity conservation and eco-restoration while supporting the health of indigenous communities and the planet. We expect to leverage our strengths and impact through collaboration with like-minded environmental resources and on-the-ground stewards of the land, communities, and generations of eco-entrepreneurs.

An umbrella approach to E.O. Wilson's Half Earth concept animates our group to achieve multi-faceted interests—conservation, eco-restoration, biodiversity, alongside regenerative agriculture, climate justice and stabilization, and the livelihood of indigenous communities. We aim to serve as a funnel, connecting each Classmate with a path for climate action that speaks to their particular interests. Our goal is to ground and support Classmates with opportunities to be generous, engaged and resourceful in ways they find rewarding.

Our proposed 3-tier approach is to:

1. Connect Classmates with a reputable land trust partner for referral to land trust opportunities in your own backyard, for you to support in ways meaningful to you.
2. Encourage collaboration among Classmates to leverage support of particularly exciting projects that emerge, facilitated by ClassACT networking.
3. Initiate **Living Earth Symposium & Call to Action:**

Exciting new research suggests that degraded ecosystems, which cover much of the planet, may be a significant cause of climate change and its devastating consequences. But ecosystems and the climate can be repaired, according to the emerging science and practices of eco-restoration.

The proposed symposium will bring together leading scientists and practitioners to explore the role of healthy ecosystems in determining water and carbon cycles that drive weather and climate. Together we will:

- ❖ *Marshal emerging theory and data about the role of living systems in regulating planetary climate systems.*
- ❖ *Identify urgent areas for further research and evaluation of approaches to remediation.*
- ❖ *Take a lead role in realizing immediate opportunities for Nature-based interventions proven to accelerate ecosystem restoration.*

- Preliminary interest in participation: Harvard's Salata Institute for Climate & Sustainability; lead actors at HBS, HKS, Chan HSPH, and international NGOs and private sector organizations.
- Our ClassACT team in partnership with external organizations will take the lead in fundraising and collaboration on content development, panel recruitment, and outreach. World class players have potential interest in what could result in impact opportunities of scale.

Collaborations in development:

- [Land Trust Alliance](#) referral service arrangements proposed for ClassACT may be found [here](#). Also see [What is a land trust?](#) and how Classmates can find [land trusts near me](#). Land trust support opportunities we may wish to share with others will appear on the list of potential [Classmate project collaborations](#).
- International alliances being explored are profiled by Kimball Chen in his reunion panel presentation.
- The [Green Belt Movement](#) is one universally respected potential ally, global leader empowering women and communities of East Africa in its integrated watershed management approach to environmental conservation, social justice and economic development.

For more info or inquiries about joining the Land Trust Group, contact [Mike Mayer](#) (mayer92@gmail.com).

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