



## **Elemental Excelerator and Conservation International Partner to Catalyze Technology Startups in the Agriculture and Water Sectors and Project Deployments in Asia-Pacific**

*Organizations will share portfolio pipelines, best practices to tackle sustainable infrastructure challenges*

**Honolulu, Hawaii** – January 30, 2019 – Today, [Elemental Excelerator \(Elemental\)](#), a global infrastructure innovation growth accelerator, announced that Conservation International is joining its Innovation Partner Program to support growth-stage startups in the agriculture and water sectors and facilitate project deployments in Asia-Pacific. The collaboration, which marks the first time Conservation International has partnered with an accelerator for growth-stage technology companies, is designed to scale impact investments in sustainable infrastructure.

Founded in 1987, Conservation International uses policy, partnerships and field demonstrations to empower societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature through projects in more than 30 countries. The organization’s long experience, global reach and expertise in the agriculture and water sectors will facilitate project deployments in Asia-Pacific by Elemental’s portfolio of growth-stage companies, and support the accelerator as it builds out its water and agriculture programs.

Elemental will work directly with Conservation International Ventures, LLC, an investment fund that provides loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises that operate in the forests, oceans and grasslands where Conservation International works. The two organizations will share due diligence strategies and criteria, as well as their pipeline of top-tier startup companies. Conservation International Ventures will support Elemental and its portfolio companies by potentially providing follow-on investments and facilitating engagement with policy, governmental and land groups in emerging markets in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

“Accelerators like Elemental play a critical role in developing the ecosystem of entrepreneurs, capital providers, and technical and industry experts needed to transform industries and achieve more sustainable and inclusive economies,” said Jan Yoshioka, director of ocean investments for Conservation International Ventures. “The work Elemental has done in the sustainable infrastructure space lays the foundation for developing robust seed- and growth-stage companies in the agricultural and water sectors, and we look forward to supporting their expansion into new industries and geographies.”

Elemental’s Innovation Partners, which include global corporations such as Hitachi, Orsted and BP, help

portfolio companies in several ways, including deploying pilot scale-up projects, securing follow-on investments, and pursuing acquisitions. Elemental's portfolio and pipeline provide partners with strategic value, including access to deal flow, investor events and insights into the front lines of innovation in their respective sectors.

"We are very pleased to add Conservation International as an Innovation Partner. As a respected, established organization with a global reach and decades of experience, it will provide important help to portfolio companies seeking to expand into new markets, deploy new projects, and target new customers," said Dawn Lippert, CEO of Elemental Excelerator. "Our track record of identifying and investing in high-quality companies and projects generating meaningful environmental and social impact supports Conservation International's mission. We look forward to collaborating with Conservation International Ventures to identify promising companies and technologies, and deploy projects in new and existing geographies in Asia-Pacific and beyond."

#### **About Elemental Excelerator**

Elemental Excelerator helps startups change the world, one community at a time. Each year, it finds 15-20 companies that best fit its mission and funds each company up to \$1 million to improve systems that impact people's lives: energy, mobility, water, agriculture, and beyond. To date, it has awarded over \$30 million to 82 companies. For more information, please visit [elementalexcelerator.com](http://elementalexcelerator.com).

#### **About Conservation International**

Conservation International uses science, policy and partnerships to protect the nature that people rely on for food, fresh water and livelihoods. Founded in 1987, Conservation International works in more than 30 countries on six continents to ensure a healthy, prosperous planet that supports us all. Learn more about [Conservation International](#), the groundbreaking "[Nature Is Speaking](#)" campaign and its series of virtual reality projects: "[My Africa](#)," "[Under the Canopy](#)" and "[Valen's Reef](#)." Follow Conservation International's work on its Human Nature blog, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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