

The theory behind our work

Also known as our theory of change, this maps the steps we take — and why — in pursuit of our vision.

We envision a community in the Sonoran Desert where ecosystems are healthy, valued, and protected, with benefits for current and future generations.

We believe this vision is best reached through:

- A biodiverse and connected network of natural, undisturbed open spaces that are protected in perpetuity;
- Science-informed, enforceable land use planning and policy tools developed and implemented in partnership with local governments;
- A diverse, collaborative and well-informed community of advocates.

We prioritize specific actions to help us realize this vision:

1. We invest in long-term, high-impact conservation planning
2. We create advocates
3. We collaborate
4. We build on trust in us
5. We drive forward relevant research

We'll know it's working when:

- Today's protected open spaces remain protected in perpetuity, and have been expanded upon using enforceable planning and policy mechanisms
- These open spaces include room for wildlife corridors
- Infrastructure exists to connect those corridors where needed most
- There exists a broad and influential community of advocates for the Sonoran Desert
- Long-term decisions, especially local decisions, are routinely made and enforced in the Sonoran Desert's favor
- These outcomes have a direct, measurable, and positive impact on ecosystem health, with benefits for all

