



RAINFOREST  
TRUST®

2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



**Bornean Orangutan** *Pongo pygmaeus*

Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutans depend on protected areas to safeguard them from the threats of habitat loss and illegal hunting.

# TANGIBLE RESULTS

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**Rainforest Trust** partners with local communities and conservationists across the world to safeguard tropical forests and other wildlife habitats by creating new, permanently protected areas.

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From 1988 to 2016, Rainforest Trust and local partners secured over 16 million acres of tropical habitat. When combined with imminent projects (totaling over 32 million acres), these sites will provide refuge for an astounding 63 percent of the world's bird species, 42 percent of all mammal species and 25 percent of all amphibian species.

Rainforest Trust is able to demonstrate such immense conservation impact with limited resources through its proven strategy: collaborating with local partners to identify the highest priority sites upon which the world's most threatened species depend, and then acting swiftly to protect them by allocating 100 percent of project donations directly to conservation action.

Through these partnerships, we have helped create over 100 new protected areas toward our goal of saving 50 million acres of vital habitat by the year 2020.

We strongly believe that flourishing tropical ecosystems are imperative to maintaining a healthy planet for humans and the millions of species that share this Earth, and we invite you to join us in making a lasting conservation impact.

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## **Dr. Paul Salaman**

At the age of eight, Paul met Sir David Attenborough and became enthralled by international wildlife conservation. As a teenager, he managed a nature reserve in London and traveled across the tropics visiting rainforests. A graduate of Oxford University, Paul has discovered four bird species new to science over the last 20 years and joined Rainforest Trust in 2008.

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend of Rainforest Trust,

I'm particularly excited to share this year's report with you, as 2016 was a banner year for Rainforest Trust's conservation efforts. Working with dedicated local partners and communities, we were able to safeguard 6.57 million acres of threatened habitats for endangered species across 11 countries — an area larger than the states of Massachusetts and Delaware, combined!

Your help made this incredible achievement possible.

With the support of friends like you since 1988, last year's conservation victories raise our total to more than 16 million acres saved for nearly 700 imperiled species that depend on these habitats — and we have ambitious plans to significantly increase our impact in 2017 and beyond.

In the following pages, you'll discover the great variety and breadth of our accomplishments that you helped us to achieve last year. For instance, our projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo created national parks that preserved more than 4.5 million acres of critical habitat while bolstering security in the region. In Ecuador, we focused on purchasing smaller—yet irreplaceable—parcels hosting the last critical populations of some of Earth's most imperiled bird and orchid species. No matter how large or small, all of our projects last year directly and permanently benefited endangered species and local communities.

But when I think about the fact that more than 80 percent of Earth's natural forests have been destroyed already, that only 10 percent of those forests are safeguarded and that a third of the world's threatened species are totally unprotected, I know we at Rainforest Trust still have our work cut out for ourselves.

We've set the bar high by boldly committing to strategically protect 50 million acres by 2020. We've already made significant headway toward that goal, and with this record year behind us, I believe that we will all celebrate the accomplishment of this ambitious goal together very soon.

Finally, I am elated to share that for its eighth year, Rainforest Trust has earned Charity Navigator's highest 4-Star rating, this time with the maximum score of 100 percent for our outstanding financial efficiency and program impact! Our consistent placement at the top level of this distinguished charity-evaluating group reaffirms Rainforest Trust's effectiveness as a resourceful investor of your support for global conservation.

As always, we remain ever grateful for your commitment to our work and for helping us to protect the world's most important tropical habitats.

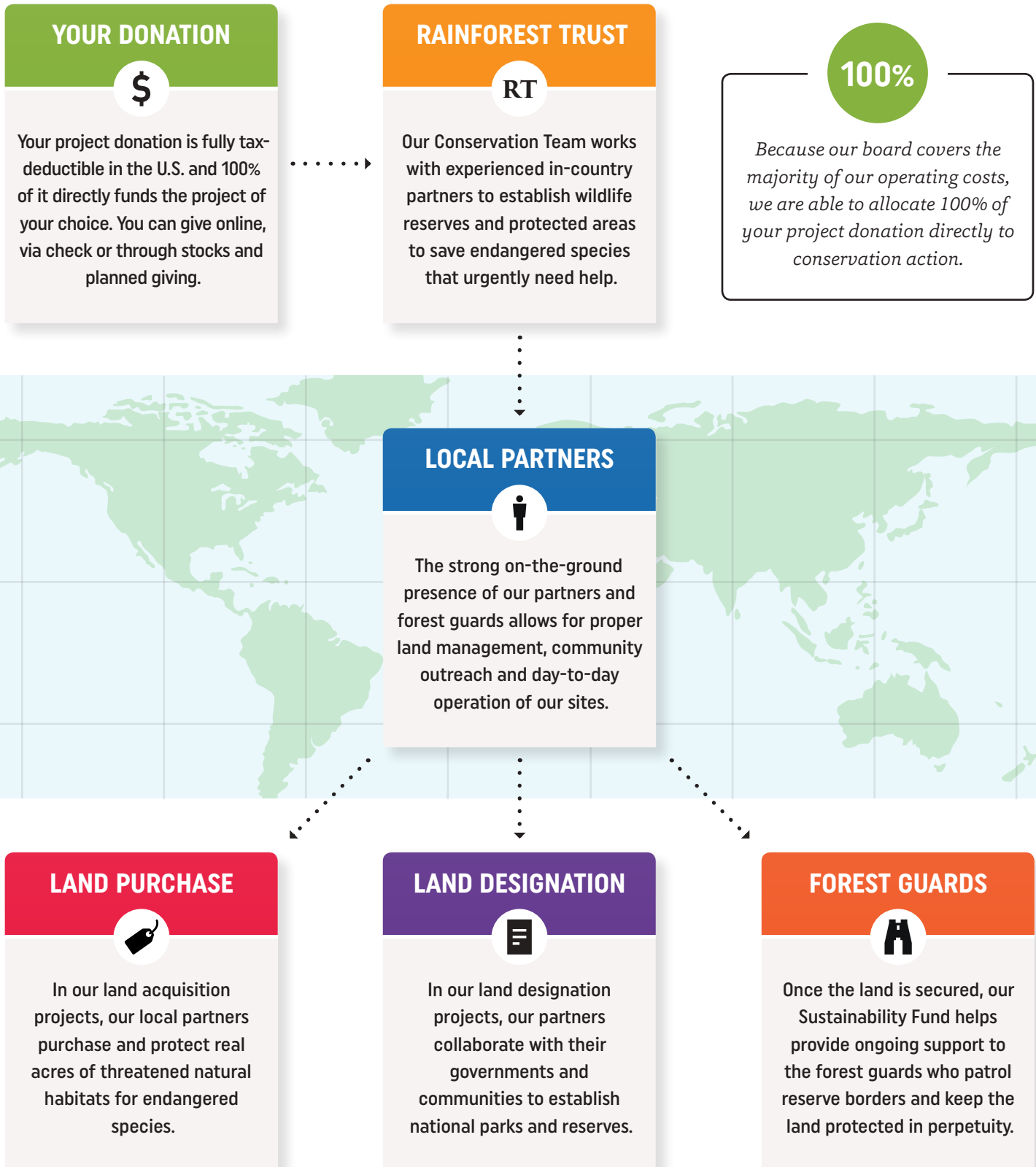
Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Salaman

# MAKING AN IMPACT

Our commitment to tropical habitat conservation inspires everything we do. At Rainforest Trust, we believe in collaboration, innovation, hard work, efficiency and putting your dollars where they count the most.



## YOUR DONATION



Your project donation is fully tax-deductible in the U.S. and 100% of it directly funds the project of your choice. You can give online, via check or through stocks and planned giving.

## RAINFOREST TRUST



Our Conservation Team works with experienced in-country partners to establish wildlife reserves and protected areas to save endangered species that urgently need help.

100%

*Because our board covers the majority of our operating costs, we are able to allocate 100% of your project donation directly to conservation action.*

## LOCAL PARTNERS



The strong on-the-ground presence of our partners and forest guards allows for proper land management, community outreach and day-to-day operation of our sites.

## LAND PURCHASE



In our land acquisition projects, our local partners purchase and protect real acres of threatened natural habitats for endangered species.

## LAND DESIGNATION



In our land designation projects, our partners collaborate with their governments and communities to establish national parks and reserves.

## FOREST GUARDS



Once the land is secured, our Sustainability Fund helps provide ongoing support to the forest guards who patrol reserve borders and keep the land protected in perpetuity.

RAINFOREST  
TRUST®

SAVES  
CHALLENGE

SAFEGUARDING AREAS VITAL TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

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**Every day, nearly 70,000 acres of  
Earth's rainforests are destroyed.**

.....

These crucial areas are home to some of the world's most imperiled species that struggle to survive amidst the rampant destruction of their habitats. You can help dramatically reduce this unnecessary loss by joining us in Safeguarding Areas Vital to Endangered Species through the SAVES Challenge.

Through this ambitious initiative, Rainforest Trust has committed to raise \$50 million as a challenge match that will direct a total of \$100 million to establish new protected areas to save the world's most threatened species.

We seek to form new strategic alliances with in-country conservation organizations that share our goal of creating new protected areas in the tropics for species categorized as Critically Endangered or Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

By joining Rainforest Trust through the SAVES Challenge, both environmentally-conscious individuals and the conservation community can unite to make a major, lasting impact through the protection of threatened rainforests and imperiled wildlife.



# Over 16 Million Acres

Conserved since 1988



**100 % of Project Gifts**  
Directly Fund Conservation Action

## In 2016:



**6.57 Million Acres**

Protected across the Tropics



**4.7 Million Acres**

of Rainforest Safeguarded in  
the Congo



**\$15.6 Million**

Invested in Conservation Action

**Top 4-STAR  
RATING**



**From Charity Navigator**

[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)



# 2016 CONSERVATION VICTORIES



A record year, Rainforest Trust and our partners protected over 6.57 million acres of tropical habitats across Latin America, Africa and Asia in 2016. These significant conservation successes were made possible because of the incredible dedication of our local partners, the investment of communities in preserving their environments and the continued assistance from our supporters.

# Impact Report: Safeguarding Species

To gauge the impact of Rainforest Trust's efforts to protect the planet's most at-risk species from extinction, we have worked with biodiversity experts to overlap the known distribution ranges of all bird, mammal and amphibian species with the sites we have already protected as well as those areas we are presently working to secure. The result of this analysis provides a critical metric to assess the real impact of our efforts on the world's wildlife.

Since 1988, our conservation work has safeguarded more than 16 million acres of vital tropical habitat, and we currently have efforts underway to increase this total to over 32 million acres in the coming years. Although the size of our reserves and protected areas represents only a small fraction of our planet (less than 0.1 percent of the Earth's surface), the implications are staggering.

Our strategically identified protected areas now provide safe havens for a great proportion of Earth's wildlife, including an estimated 46 percent of all bird species, 30 percent of all mammal species and over 19 percent of all amphibian species. When considering the additional areas we are currently working to secure, these proportions leap to an estimated 63 percent of all bird species, 42 percent of all mammal species and 25 percent of all amphibian species on Earth. These statistics are evidence of the incredible importance of our protected areas to conserve biodiversity.

Especially considering the modest funds that Rainforest Trust and our supporters have committed over the years to creating new protected areas, the significant proportion of biodiversity that is estimated to occur in these areas is a tremendous indicator of our impact. Even though the results of this analysis present only approximate numbers of species protected, they demonstrate how Rainforest Trust's strategic conservation actions benefit the vast majority of life on Earth and directly address the world's extinction crisis.

This analysis of the number of threatened species that Rainforest Trust has safeguarded by helping to create new protected areas was determined using the following methodology. The number of threatened species in the analysis includes birds, mammals and amphibians because range data is only readily available for these taxonomic groups. We compared the boundaries of Rainforest Trust-supported protected areas with the range maps of species listed as threatened (i.e., Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and, from this analysis, determined the number of bird, mammal and amphibian species whose ranges overlap with the protected areas we have helped to create and are presently working to secure.

*For more information about the methodology, please visit Rainforest Trust's website. Rainforest Trust is grateful to Ana Rodrigues, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive and the volunteers who contributed to the collection and compilation of the IUCN, BirdLife and NatureServe data.*

Data sources:

IUCN. 2016. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016-1. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>.

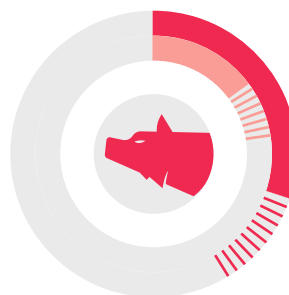
BirdLife International and NatureServe. 2015. Bird species distribution maps of the world. BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK and NatureServe, Arlington, VA, USA.



Species Protection:  
Current and Future  
Project Sites

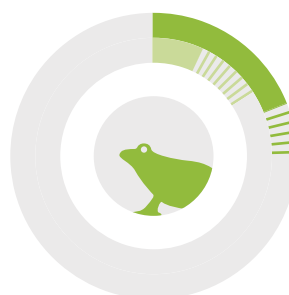
**6,549** 63% of all Bird Species  
 46% currently protected  
 17% in future sites

**420** 30% of all Threatened Bird Species  
 24% currently protected  
 6% in future sites



**2,283** 42% of all Mammal Species  
 30% currently protected  
 12% in future sites

**280** 23% of all Threatened Mammal Species  
 15% currently protected  
 8% in future sites



**1,629** 25% of all Amphibian Species  
 19% currently protected  
 6% in future sites

**366** 16% of all Threatened Amphibian Species  
 7% currently protected  
 9% in future sites



# LATIN AMERICA

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# ACRES SAVED

Thanks to our supporters and local partners, Rainforest Trust has helped protect nearly 10 million acres in Latin America since 1988.



*The destruction of the Critically Endangered Hoge's Side-necked Turtle's habitat is the main cause of its population decline. Other major threats to the species include overexploitation and fishing.*

LATIN AMERICA

**BRAZIL** 236 ACRES

February 2016

Creation of Hoge's Side-necked Turtle Reserve

Restricted to the Paraíba do Sul Basin and adjacent areas in Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest, the Hoge's Side-necked Turtle is severely threatened due to the degradation and fragmentation of its small range. Agricultural production - particularly in the region of the river basin's headwaters - has led to blockage and elimination of many important tributaries in the river system. Due to the continued destruction of its habitat and subsequent population decline, the Hoge's Side-necked Turtle is considered Critically Endangered.

One of the last confirmed populations of the turtle is found along a small portion of the Carangola River. Because of its presence, this area has been declared a priority site by the

Alliance for Zero Extinction (a coalition of international conservation nonprofits).

Rainforest Trust supported local Brazilian partner Fundação Biodiversitas in purchasing a critical private property along the Carangola River, establishing the 236-acre Hoge's Side-necked Turtle Reserve. The property contains areas of preserved Atlantic Forest as well as disturbed areas that have been abandoned for many years and have begun to regenerate. The creation of this reserve will greatly increase the quality of habitat for Hoge's Side-necked Turtles and other threatened wildlife in the region.

**KEY SPECIES:** Hoge's Side-necked Turtle (CR)

**HABITAT:** Atlantic Rainforest

**THREATS AVERTED:** Logging, agricultural expansion, illegal pet trade

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Fundação Biodiversitas

CR CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*As urban sprawl from nearby Rio de Janeiro threatens Brazil's Guapiaçu Valley and species such as the Southern Woolly Spider Monkey, protecting the Atlantic Rainforest has become a critical conservation priority.*

#### LATIN AMERICA

## BRAZIL 150 ACRES

March 2016

### Expansion of REGUA Reserve

The Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil is one of the world's most threatened biodiversity hotspots. Originally spanning over 500,000 square miles, less than 10 percent of the forest remains. This landscape contains vital habitat for 60 mammal species, including Pumas, Ocelots, Jaguarundis, Three-toed Sloths and South America's largest and rarest primate, the Endangered Southern Woolly Spider Monkey.

There are fewer than 1,500 of these threatened primates left in the wild, and the species is expected to have an additional population decline in the coming years if its habitat continues to be fragmented.

Rainforest Trust has collaborated with Brazilian partner Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA) for over a decade to protect this severely threatened rainforest. By strategically purchasing acres in Brazil's Guapiaçu Valley (which is about 40 miles from the metropolis of Rio de Janeiro), REGUA has created a secure reserve that encompasses over 22,000 acres.

150 acres were recently added to this reserve that provides critical protection for many of the Atlantic Rainforest's most threatened species, including the Endangered Southern Woolly Spider Monkey.

**KEY SPECIES:** Southern Woolly Spider Monkey (EN), Black-backed Tanager (VU), Brazilian Snake-necked Turtle (VU)

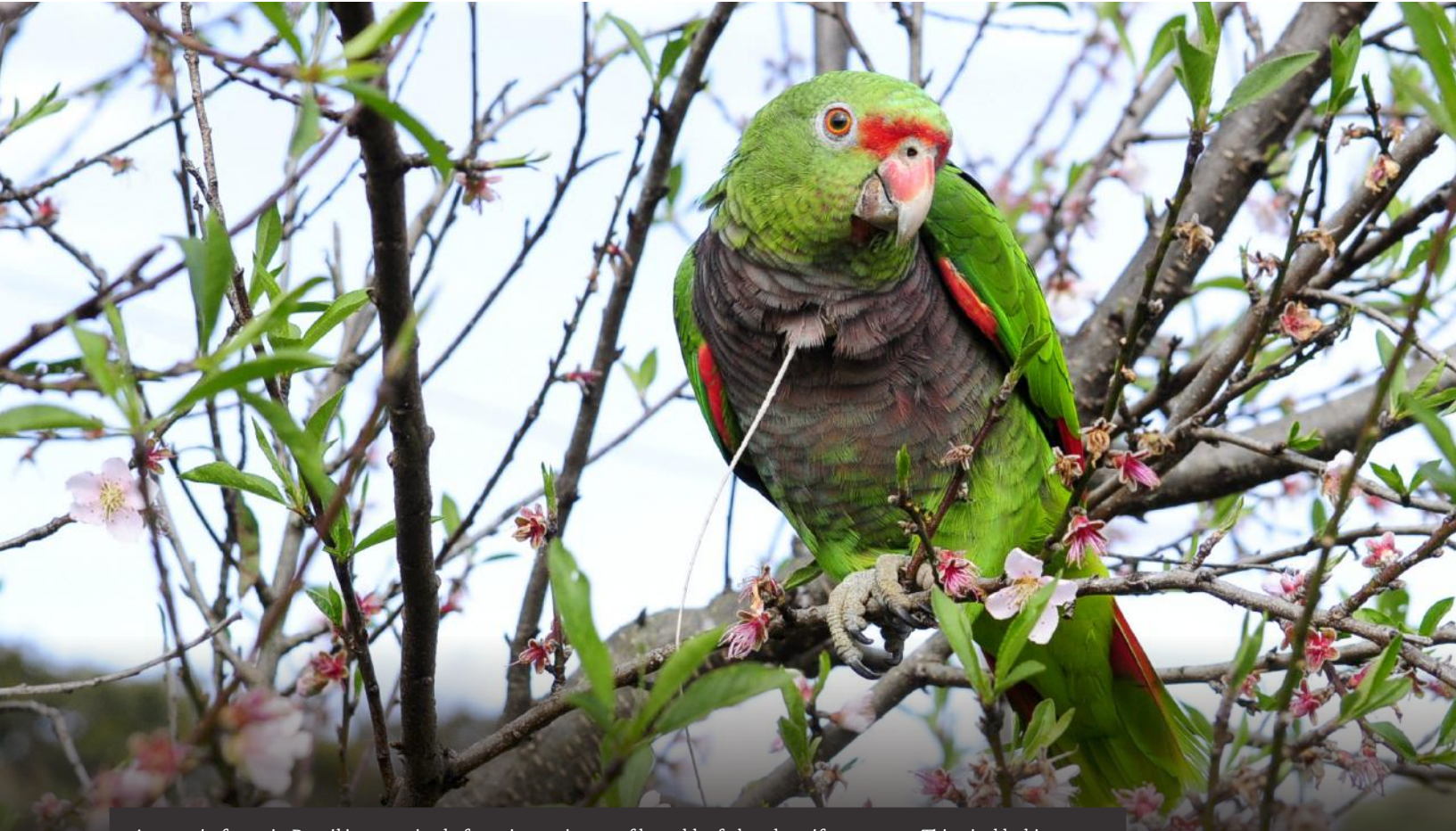
**HABITAT:** High elevation montane forest

**THREATS AVERTED:** Urbanization, agriculture, deforestation

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA)

EN Endangered VU Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*Araucaria forest in Brazil is comprised of a unique mixture of broad-leafed and coniferous trees. This vital habitat supplies necessary food for the Endangered Vinaceous-breasted Amazon and other avifauna.*

LATIN AMERICA

**BRAZIL** 116 ACRES

March 2016

Creation of High-Altitude Parrot Reserve

The Santa Catarina Highlands of Brazil are home to the largest remaining population of the Vinaceous-breasted Amazon. Of the 2,500 remaining individuals, roughly half of these Endangered birds are found within this moist forest landscape. Other imperiled regional birds include the Endangered Crowned Solitary Eagle, Endangered Marsh Tapaculo and the Vulnerable Red-spectacled Parrot.

To alleviate these pressures, Rainforest Trust’s local partner Associação Amigos do Meio Ambiente (AMA) secured 116 acres to create High-Altitude Parrot Reserve (Reserva Natural Papagaios-de-Altitude) in Araucaria forest. This reserve is located within an area designated as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International, and Brazil’s Ministry of Environment considers this area to be a high priority for conservation efforts.

Araucaria forest, which is part of the Santa Catarina Highlands, is a relic of a once-extensive ecosystem. It is continuously threatened by logging, expanding agricultural production and the introduction of exotic species. Combined, these threats put the survival of many species at risk.

Cleared and degraded areas within High-Altitude Parrot Reserve are being reforested with native plants, and AMA is working with the owners of neighboring lands to build partnerships and encourage local involvement in conservation efforts.

**KEY SPECIES:** Parana Pine (CR), Vinaceous-breasted Amazon (EN), Crowned Solitary Eagle (EN), Marsh Tapaculo (EN)

**HABITATS:** Araucaria moist forest

**THREATS AVERTED:** Logging, agricultural expansion

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Associação Amigos do Meio Ambiente (AMA)

**CR** Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



The Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise was named after conservationist and Rainforest Trust board member Eric Goode, who has worked to protect this threatened new species of tortoise in Mexico.

#### LATIN AMERICA

## MEXICO 999 ACRES

June 2016

### Creation of Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise Reserve

In early 2016, scientists described a new species of tortoise that resides in the Sinaloan thornscrub forests of Mexico: the Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise (*Gopherus evgoodei*). Having the smallest range of the desert tortoises, it lives on hills and low mountains and occupies rock cavities. Scientists consider this tortoise to be at grave risk of extinction due to the threats of habitat loss and lack of protection.

Rainforest Trust assisted its local partner Naturaleza y Cultura Sierra Madre in the purchase and protection of the surviving population stronghold of the Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise.

999 acres of crucial thornscrub habitat for the Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise were purchased near Alamos and have been incorporated into the adjoining Reserva Monte Mojino.

The new reserve also protects many other threatened and charismatic species, such as Military Macaws, Black-throated Magpie-jays, Lowland Burrowing Treefrogs and Jaguars.

**KEY SPECIES:** Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise (*Gopherus evgoodei*), Military Macaw (VU)

**HABITAT:** Tropical deciduous forest

**THREAT AVERTED:** Habitat conversion

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Naturaleza y Cultura Sierra Madre, A.C. (NCSM)

VU Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*While Ecuador's Chocó region is one of the most biodiverse in the world, less than 10 percent of the original forest remains intact. This is in part due to logging, human settlement and agricultural encroachment.*

LATIN AMERICA

# ECUADOR 201 ACRES

July 2016

## Expansion of Dracula Orchid Reserve

The mid-elevation forests of the Ecuadorian Chocó bioregion are famous for their plants found nowhere else in the world. Dracula Orchids are highly range restricted, with 90 percent of all species occurring at fewer than five sites. Because these orchids are so restricted in their habitat requirements, they are inherently susceptible to extinction by habitat loss. It is estimated that 14 Dracula Orchid species have already become extinct due to deforestation, which is equivalent to one species becoming extinct every three years due to forest conversion.

In addition to Dracula Orchids, the Chocó forests also contain high rates of avian endemism, including Black-and-

chestnut Eagles, Banded Ground-cuckoos and Long-wattled Umbrellabirds. The Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey – one of the rarest primates in the world – is found within this forested region of Ecuador. Other mammals such as Spectacled Bears, Pumas, Jaguarundis and Ocelots also depend on this habitat.

Rainforest Trust worked with local partner Fundación EcoMinga to expand Dracula Orchid Reserve by 201 acres, safeguarding habitat that is critical for the survival of several species of the Dracula Orchid, many other plants and a plethora of wildlife.

**KEY SPECIES:** Brown-headed Spider Monkey (CR), Black-and-chestnut Eagle (EN), Dracula and *Lepanthes* orchids

**HABITAT:** Cloud forest

**THREAT AVERTED:** Deforestation due to agriculture, logging, human settlement and cattle grazing

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Fundación EcoMinga

**CR** Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species





*Tesoro Escondido Reserve safeguards one of the largest remaining populations of the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey and provides a haven for Great Green Macaws, Jaguars and other threatened species.*

#### LATIN AMERICA

## ECUADOR 1,226 ACRES

September 2016

### Expansion of Tesoro Escondido Reserve

The Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey has been identified as one of the 25 most endangered primates in the world and is found only in Ecuador's Chocóan rainforests. An estimated population of 150 individuals exist in the region of Tesoro Escondido, leading this site to be regarded as a global priority for the species.

These spider monkeys play a critical role in maintaining forest diversity as they disperse the seeds of numerous trees, and they are drastically impacted by loss of their forest habitat, hunting and expanding oil palm pressures that threaten their survival. Tesoro Escondido is also home to one of the last populations of western Ecuadorian Jaguars and

44 percent of mammal species recorded in Ecuador. Several globally threatened birds have been observed in this area, as well as multiple Endangered amphibians.

To safeguard additional habitat in this vulnerable region, Rainforest Trust worked with Ecuadorian partner Fundación Cambugán to expand Tesoro Escondido Reserve. The reserve's combined 2,965 acres are now secure through direct land purchases that include vital habitat for the Brown-headed Spider Monkey. Infant spider monkeys were recently sighted in the reserve, which is a positive sign of the species' ability to rebound and thrive in the protected area.

**KEY SPECIES:** Brown-headed Spider Monkey (CR), Great Green Macaw (EN), Baudo Guan (EN), Banded Ground-cuckoo (EN)

**HABITAT:** Chocóan rainforest

**THREATS AVERTED:** Deforestation, hunting, oil palm plantations

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Fundación Cambugán

**CR** Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*With 95 percent of western Ecuador's forests already lost, Buenaventura Reserve holds tremendous value for conservation. Rainforest Trust has supported this reserve for over 16 years, protecting species such as El Oro Parakeets.*

LATIN AMERICA

# ECUADOR 469 ACRES

November 2016

## Expansion of Buenaventura Reserve

Discovered 36 years ago by Rainforest Trust's president, Dr. Robert Ridgely, approximately half the global population of El Oro Parakeets resides entirely within Buenaventura Reserve in southwestern Ecuador. Since the reserve was established in 2000, the El Oro Parakeet population has rebounded by 33 percent. Furthermore, the few dozen remaining Ecuadorian Tapaculos that have lost much of their range due to deforestation depend on the reserve for their survival.

In addition to the El Oro Parakeet and Ecuadorian Tapaculo, Buenaventura Reserve protects a stronghold site for the Gray-backed Hawk. This species is typically found only in pairs but is commonly observed in greater numbers in the reserve.

Other threatened birds within the reserve include the Rufous-headed Chachalaca, Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Red-masked Parakeet and Pacific Royal Flycatcher.

More than 330 bird species have been recorded at Buenaventura, 34 of which are local endemics. This reserve also provides habitat for 33 amphibian and 29 reptile species – five of which are globally threatened – as well as the Critically Endangered Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin.

Rainforest Trust supported partner Fundación Jocotoco to purchase the 469-acre Guzman property, growing Buenaventura Reserve to a total of 6,266 acres.

**KEY SPECIES:** Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin (CR), El Oro Parakeet (EN), Ecuadorian Tapaculo (EN)

**HABITAT:** Cloud forest

**THREAT AVERTED:** Deforestation for pasture land

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Fundación Jocotoco

**CR** Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

# LOOKING FORWARD

## LATIN AMERICA

Since our founding in 1988, Rainforest Trust has maintained a strong commitment to protecting threatened tropical habitats and providing refuge for imperiled species. Latin America is home to some of the world's highest levels of biodiversity and continues to be a central focus of our urgent conservation efforts.



### .....UPCOMING CONSERVATION GOALS

#### Peru

Although the Amazon contains the largest tropical rainforest on Earth, nearly 20 percent of its landscape has been decimated. Rainforest Trust and its local partner are expanding the existing Airo Pai Community Reserve along with other regional conservation efforts to safeguard more than 1.3 million acres and protect remaining habitats for species such as Jaguars. This will secure the missing link to create a combined 7.8 million-acre tri-national corridor across Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

**Acres:** 1,338,520

#### Costa Rica

One of four tropical fjords in the world, the unique ecosystem of Golfo Dulce by Costa Rica provides critical nursery habitat for Scalloped Hammerheads. These coastal waters are also home to Endangered Whale Sharks and Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtles. Rainforest Trust and its local partner are working to create a multi-use Marine Management Area and Shark Sanctuary to relieve fishing pressure on sharks and bolster the declining Eastern Pacific population of Endangered Scalloped Hammerheads.

**Acres:** 172,974



#### Ecuador

Río Canandé Reserve is a hotspot for biodiversity, and many species with restricted ranges depend on the reserve's lowland tropical rainforests. The Critically Endangered Canandé Magnolia has only been documented at this reserve, and this haven also provides refuge for the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey and the Endangered Great Green Macaw. Rainforest Trust is supporting its local partner in the purchase of over 1,000 acres to expand the existing reserve and strategically block nearby clear-cutting.

**Acres:** 1,370



# AFRICA

## ACRES SAVED

From the wetlands of Côte d'Ivoire to the island nation of Madagascar, Rainforest Trust has helped protect over 6 million acres in Africa.

- COMPLETED PROJECTS
- 2016 ACHIEVEMENTS
- 2017 AND BEYOND
- PROTECTED AREA FEASIBILITY STUDIES





The Critically Endangered Geometric Tortoise is no bigger than the palm of a human hand and sports a stunning black-and-yellow pattern on its domed shell.

#### AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA 601 ACRES

March 2016

### Expansion of Geometric Tortoise Preserve

Endemic to the Western Cape of South Africa, the Critically Endangered Geometric Tortoise is one of the world's most threatened reptiles, with a total population of less than 1,000 individuals. The species has lost nearly 95 percent of its habitat due to urban and agricultural expansion.

The area also supports populations of rare plant species and has significant regional conservation value. These plants are part of the Breede Alluvium Fynbos, an endangered vegetation type restricted to the Upper Breede River Valley. Less than 43 percent of this ecosystem remains, as its only form of protection is through the Geometric Tortoise Preserve.

To strengthen protection for this ecological corridor and the largest remaining population of the Geometric Tortoise, Rainforest Trust partnered with the South African Tortoise Conservation Trust and Turtle Conservancy to expand Geometric Tortoise Preserve by 601 acres, bringing the preserve's total size to 810 acres.

The conservation organizations are currently removing invasive species and restoring native plants within the preserve, in addition to constructing a fence to prevent intrusions by animal predators and human poachers.

**KEY SPECIES:** Geometric Tortoise (CR), *Lampranthus scaber* (EN), *Athanasia crenata* (EN)

**HABITAT:** Lowland fynbos shrubland

**THREATS AVERTED:** Agricultural expansion, urbanization, overgrazing, uncontrolled fire

**LOCAL PARTNERS:** South African Tortoise Conservation Trust, Turtle Conservancy

CR Critically Endangered EN Endangered

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*The Albertine Rift supports more than half of Africa's bird species and 40 percent of its mammals, including African Elephants, Lions and several species of great apes.*

**AFRICA**

# DR CONGO

**2,564,619 ACRES**

JUNE/ AUGUST/ DECEMBER 2016

## Establishment of Several Protected Areas

Thanks to Rainforest Trust's partner the Albertine Rift Valley Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), donors and other supporters, Itombwe Nature Reserve now safeguards over 1 million acres of the incredibly biodiverse Albertine Rift. In June, the Provincial Governor of South Kivu approved the boundaries of this reserve, officially establishing the protected area and securing vital habitat for dozens of threatened wildlife species such as the Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorilla. WCS and its partners worked closely with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government's Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature to achieve this goal.

Rainforest Trust has also supported the creation of additional protected areas in the country. Recent DRC government decentralization resulted in the creation of multiple new provinces, and the area originally proposed as Ngamikka National Park was suddenly contained within two provinces. Because of this division, local leaders and communities opted to establish the section of the proposed park in South Kivu Province as Ngandja Natural Reserve in August.

In December, the second section of the proposed park located in Tanganyika Province was declared as Kabobo Natural Reserve, completing the protected area complex.

**KEY SPECIES:** Grauer's Gorilla (CR), Eastern Chimpanzee (EN), African Elephant (VU), African Lion (VU)

**HABITAT:** Lowland and montane rainforests

**THREAT AVERTED:** Forest clearing for cattle pastures

**LOCAL PARTNERS:** Wildlife Conservation Society's Albertine Rift Valley Program, Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature

**CR** Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered **VU** Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*The declaration of Lomami National Park is heralded as a major breakthrough in securing urgently needed rainforest protection for central African wildlife, such as Okapis, Bonobos and African Elephants.*

**AFRICA**

## DR CONGO

2,193,948 ACRES

July 2016

### Creation of Lomami National Park

The Congo Basin encompasses lowland tropical forests, hills, swamps and natural savannas that shelter an abundance of rare and endangered species found only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Some of its primate species, such as the recently discovered Lesula and the Tshuapa Red Colobus, occur in no other protected area globally, and other primates that inhabit these forests include Bonobos and Dryas Monkeys. This region is also home to Okapis and one of the DRC's last remaining elephant populations, with at least 500 African Elephants found in this area.

Despite being the second-largest rainforest in the world, the Congo Basin ranks as the most under-protected rainforest left on Earth. After identifying mounting threats to the region's wildlife, Rainforest Trust launched a massive campaign with local partner Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation that resulted in the creation of the nearly 2.2 million-acre Lomami National Park.

This was the first national park in the DRC, and one of the few in Africa, to be established with major support from local communities.

**KEY SPECIES:** Bonobo (EN), Okapi (EN), Congo Peafowl (VU), African Elephant (VU)

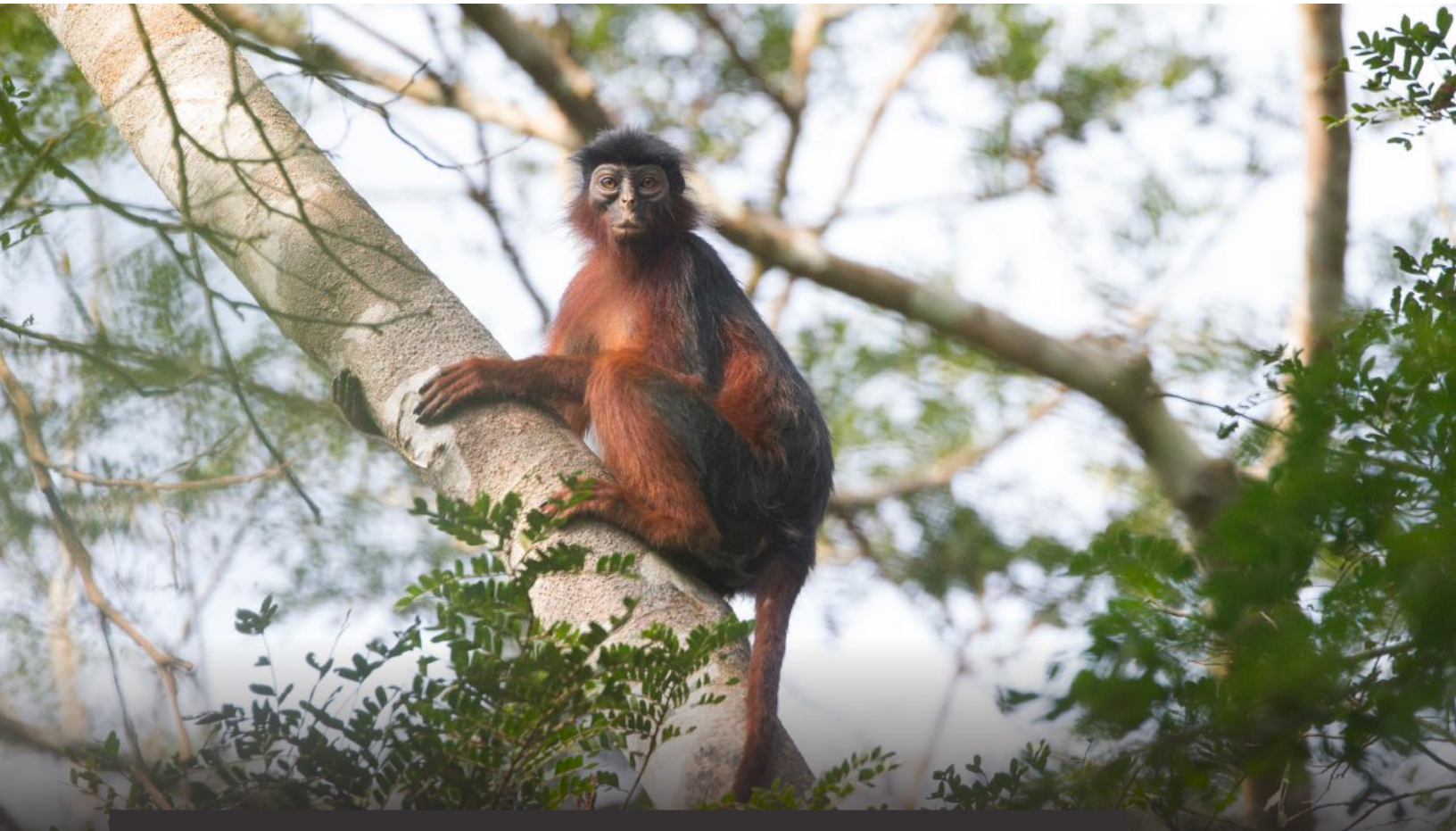
**HABITATS:** Savanna to equatorial closed forest

**THREATS AVERTED:** Bushmeat hunting, ivory poaching

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation

EN Endangered VU Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*Gola Forest National Park – only the second national park in Liberia – protects vital habitat in the Guinean Forest of West Africa, which contains astonishing levels of endemic plant and animal life.*

AFRICA

# LIBERIA

219,609 ACRES

SEPTEMBER 2016

## Creation of Gola Forest National Park

The Guinean Forest of West Africa is recognized as one of Africa’s most important biodiversity hotspots and is home to numerous imperiled species, including African Elephants. Other animals such as Chimpanzees, Western Red Colobus Monkeys and Diana Monkeys reside in this region, as well as three species of duiker antelope and the Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamus.

through the declaration of Gola Forest National Park.

Rainforest Trust worked with local partner Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia to help establish this 219,609-acre park, which is part of an international conservation plan to create one of the largest protected area complexes in West Africa.

With many of West Africa’s forests already lost to human development and less than 3 percent of remaining forests officially protected, the region’s wildlife is under severe threat. Large intact blocks of rainforest along Liberia’s western border with Sierra Leone are now protected

By connecting Gola Forest National Park to the neighboring Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone, the two countries will cooperate to establish a crucial Transboundary Peace Park spanning a total of 395,226 acres.

**KEY SPECIES:** Western Chimpanzee (CR), Jentink’s Duiker (EN), Pygmy Hippopotamus (EN), African Elephant (VU)

**HABITAT:** Lowland rainforest

**THREATS AVERTED:** Oil palm plantations, diamond mining, logging, hunting

**LOCAL PARTNER:** Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia

**CR** Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered **VU** Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



# LOOKING FORWARD

## AFRICA

Rainforest Trust's commitment to protecting threatened tropical forests and endangered wildlife spans the globe. We now provide protection across the western, central and southern parts of Africa – seeking to ensure a future for the continent's majestic wildlife before it is too late.



### UPCOMING CONSERVATION GOALS

#### Mozambique

Following Mozambique's long civil war, the rebounding of Gorongosa National Park's rich wildlife populations has been a major conservation success. At least 25 threatened species have been recorded here, including three Critically Endangered species of vultures and the Endangered African Wild Dog. Rainforest Trust and its local partner are working to extend protection across this landscape to provide refuge for wildlife populations negatively impacted by nearly two decades of war.

**Acres:** 112,074

#### Cameroon

The Lebialem Highland forests are home to significant populations of the Critically Endangered Cross River Gorilla and the Endangered Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee. Rainforest Trust is working with a local partner to create a new protected area in the Lebialem Highlands called Mak-Betchou Wildlife Sanctuary and a management plan for Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary. The creation of Mak-Betchou Wildlife Sanctuary will add to an immense network of protected areas spanning over 1.5 million acres.

**Acres:** 34,794



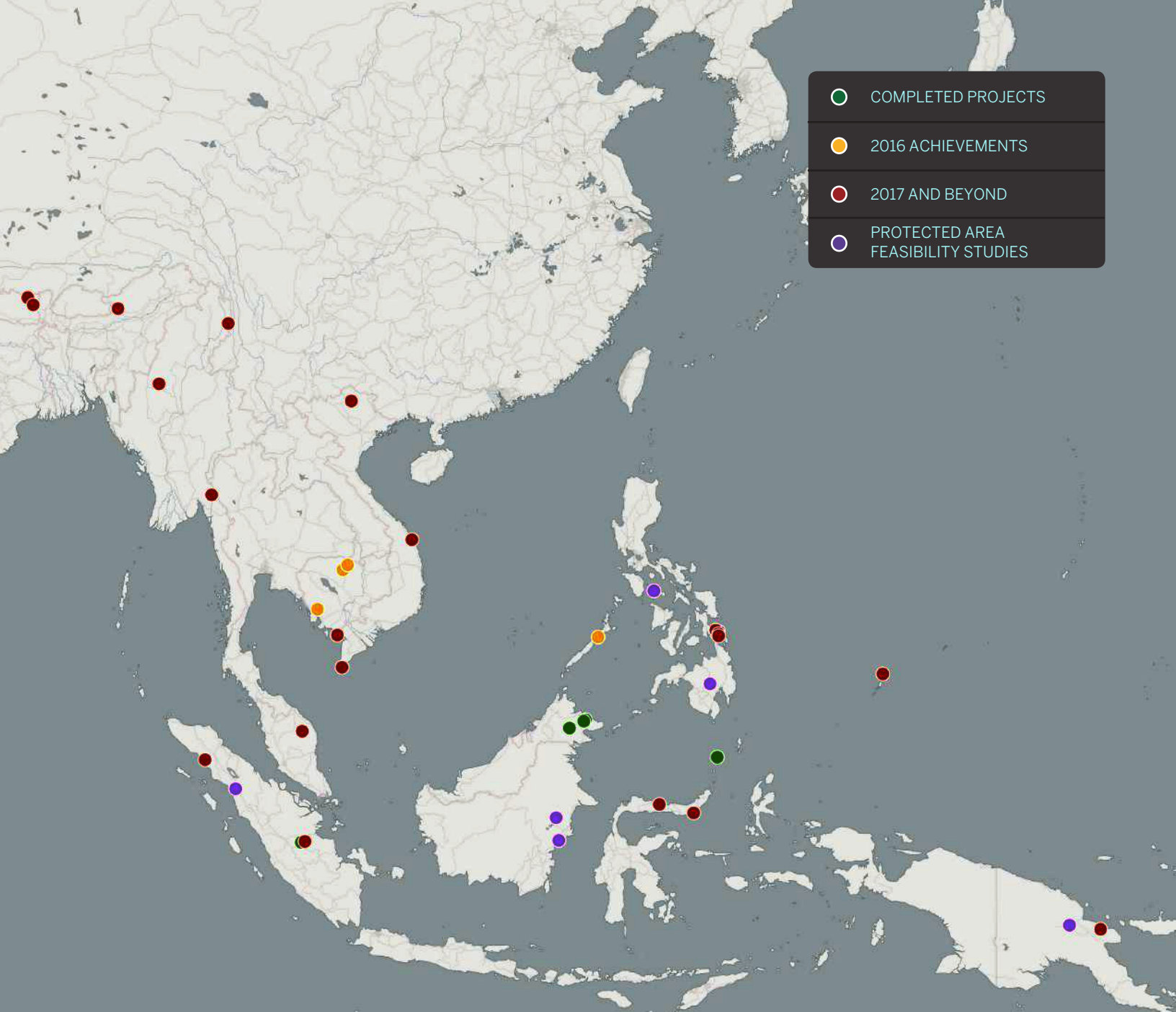
#### South Africa

The Critically Endangered Amathole Toad was presumed to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 2011. Rainforest Trust and a local partner are currently working to protect its habitat within the Amathole Mountains. In eastern South Africa, Rainforest Trust and this same partner are working to establish protected areas that will help safeguard key wetland habitats for species such as the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog.

**Acres:** Nearly 30,000



- COMPLETED PROJECTS
- 2016 ACHIEVEMENTS
- 2017 AND BEYOND
- PROTECTED AREA FEASIBILITY STUDIES

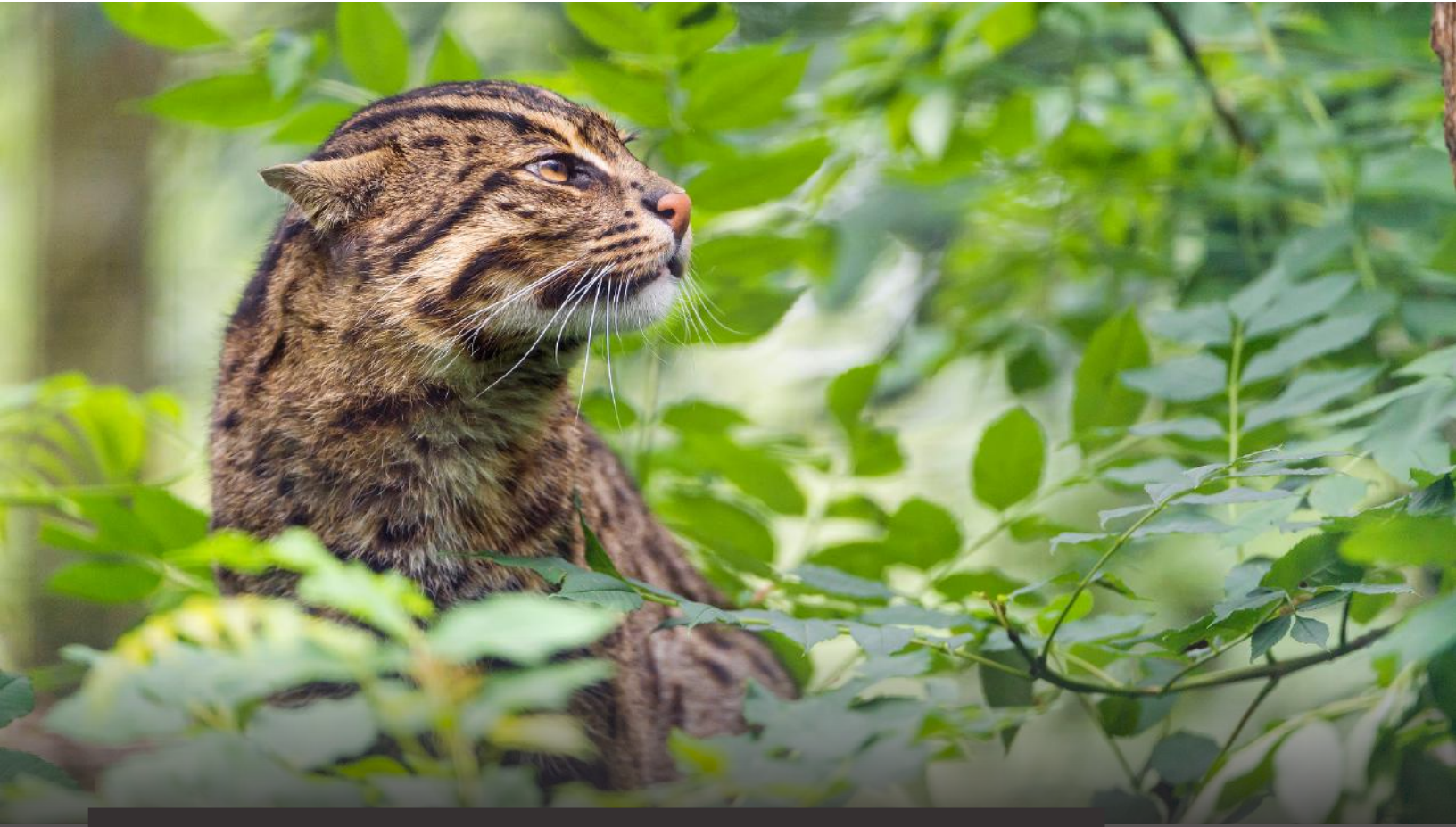


# ASIA

## ACRES SAVED

Rainforest Trust has helped protect over 1.7 million acres of habitat across Asia for a diverse range of threatened species.





*Cambodia contains a diversity of habitats supporting some of Asia's most impressive and threatened megafauna. In recent years, the country has seen one of the world's highest rates of deforestation.*

ASIA

## CAMBODIA 1,237,387 ACRES

May 2016

### Extension of Cambodia's Protected Area Network

The Cardamom Mountain Range in southwest Cambodia contains one of the last unfragmented Asian Elephant corridors on the planet, and 80 percent of the elephants found within the 'Southwest Elephant Corridor' reside in the Cardamoms. Cambodia's Northern Plains hold the last intact representation of an ecosystem that once dominated most of Indochina. This biodiversity hotspot boasts nearly 30 species assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, including Indochinese Silvered Langurs and Fishing Cats.

Rainforest Trust collaborated with partner Wildlife Alliance to work with Cambodia's government to formally

establish the 1,014,100-acre Southern Cardamom National Park, safeguarding one of Southeast Asia's last great rainforests. This new park is the final, critical centerpiece connecting six major national parks and wildlife sanctuaries to form a massive, contiguous area spanning nearly 4.5 million acres.

Additionally, by working with partner WCS-Cambodia, the 223,287-acre Prey Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary in Cambodia's Northern Plains was also declared. This wildlife sanctuary now securely connects two previously established protected areas, providing an enormous wildlife corridor spanning 1,698,012 acres.

**KEY SPECIES:** Giant Ibis (CR), Siamese Crocodile (CR), White-shouldered Ibis (CR), Asian Elephant (EN), Fishing Cat (VU)

**HABITAT:** Tropical dry forest

**THREATS AVERTED:** Agricultural expansion, poaching, logging

**LOCAL PARTNERS:** Wildlife Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)-Cambodia

**CR** Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered **VU** Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



*Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat in Palawan now safeguards endemic and threatened species while protecting the forest-dwelling Batak people.*

ASIA

# PHILIPPINES 102,178 ACRES

NOVEMBER 2016

## Creation of Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat

The forests of Cleopatra's Needle, one of Palawan's highest peaks, harbor some of the Philippines' most endangered wildlife. The southern and eastern hills of Cleopatra's Needle are home to the Endangered Palawan Horned Frog, and nearby creeks contain the largest remaining population of the Philippine Flat-headed Frog. Residing here as well are Palawan Toadlets, which were rediscovered at Cleopatra's Needle in 2015 after not being observed for over 40 years.

Nearly 60 terrestrial mammal species have been recorded on this island, including the Philippine Pangolin and Palawan Bearcat. Of the 279 bird species found on Palawan, 27 are endemic to the Philippines, such as the Palawan Hornbill

whose population has declined from hunting and loss of lowland forest habitat elsewhere on the island. Of the species that reside only in Palawan and nowhere else in the world, 85 percent are found on and around Cleopatra's Needle.

Over 100,000 acres of rainforest encompassing and surrounding Cleopatra's Needle were declared as a Critical Habitat due to the collaborative efforts of Rainforest Trust and local conservation partner Centre for Sustainability-PH working with the Puerto Princesa city government. In addition to providing a haven for species that are at risk for extinction, this protected area also safeguards the traditional territory of the indigenous Batak people.

**KEY SPECIES:** Palawan Horned Frog (EN), Philippine Pangolin (EN), Palawan Toadlet (EN), Palawan Bearcat (VU)

**HABITAT:** Tropical and subtropical rainforests

**THREATS AVERTED:** Illegal logging, poaching, uncontrolled burning, rapid urbanization

**LOCAL PARTNER:** The Centre for Sustainability - PH

EN Endangered VU Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

# LOOKING FORWARD

## ASIA

Rainforest Trust's mission of helping protect tropical habitats extends far beyond our original focus on the Western Hemisphere. Our conservation efforts continue to expand into Asia, safeguarding incredibly threatened species and the habitats on which they depend.

### UPCOMING CONSERVATION GOALS

#### Nepal

Roaming the rugged montane landscape of Central Asia, Snow Leopards require vast Himalayan terrain to survive. In order to provide refuge for this Endangered cat and other threatened species including Chinese and Indian Pangolins and Red Pandas, Rainforest Trust and its local partner are working to create the 176,630-acre Lumbasumba Conservation Area. This will be the crucial link in a mosaic of protected areas across southern China, Nepal and India spanning over 14.5 million acres.

**Acres:** 176,630

#### New Caledonia

Within the forests of Mount Panié, the highest mountain in the Pacific island chain of New Caledonia, resides the Mount Panié Kauri. Despite this tree species being found only on this mountain, only 31 percent of its natural range is protected. Rainforest Trust and its local partner are expanding an existing reserve to encompass the entire natural range of this Critically Endangered tree and provide a haven for other threatened species.

**Acres:** 50,000

#### Malaysia

Estimated to be more than 130 million years old, the last major stand of lowland dipterocarp forest on the Malay Peninsula is located within Taman Negara National Park. This park and its surrounding landscape are home to a globally significant tiger population, yet a large tract of forest remains totally unprotected. Rainforest Trust and its local partner are working to secure at-risk land connected to the national park and upgrade additional acres to state park status.

**Acres:** 200,000+



# LEADERSHIP

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- James Lewis  
Director of Conservation Programs
- Marc Ford  
Director of Communications and Outreach
- Patricia Munoz-Chernitsky  
Comptroller



**"We're proud to play a part in Rainforest Trust's enduring legacy of forever protecting tropical havens where wildlife can rebound and thrive."**

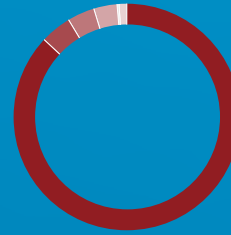
- Curt Vander Meer  
CEO of Endangered Species Chocolate

For nearly 20 years, Endangered Species Chocolate has used the universal appeal of chocolate to raise awareness of at-risk animals and generate funds to save species. Annually, 10 percent of the chocolate maker's net profits are donated to wildlife organizations, including Rainforest Trust. Since starting the GiveBack program three years ago, Endangered Species Chocolate has donated more than \$1.3 million to expand effective species preservation strategies worldwide. Rainforest Trust's strategic conservation approach to secure habitats that are crucial to countless species across Africa, Asia and Latin America – regions where cacao is grown – really struck a chord with the philanthropic chocolate company. In 2016, Endangered Species Chocolate selected Rainforest Trust as the beneficiary of its GiveBack program through 2018. Already, this partnership has provided much needed support to campaigns including the proposed 1,194,507-acre Balanga Forest Reserve in the Congo Basin, home to the Lesula monkey, and the proposed Tanoé-Ehy Community Reserve in Cote d'Ivoire, wherein reside the Endangered Roloway Monkey and White-naped Mangabey. Truly a loyal supporter, Endangered Species Chocolate touches virtually every urgent Rainforest Trust project with its GiveBack dollars. From saving Sumatra's rarest wildlife to protecting pangolins in India, the company lives by its credo to bolster positive global change.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## 2016 INCOME

Individual Donations .....	<b>87%</b>	\$13,678,222
Corporate Gifts .....	<b>4.5%</b>	\$714,153
Foundation Grants .....	<b>3.8%</b>	\$601,103
Organization Support .....	<b>3.4%</b>	\$541,987
Combined Federal Campaign .....	<b>0.2%</b>	\$27,290
Interest, Dividends & In-Kind.....	<b>1.1%</b>	\$166,321
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 15,729,076*</b>



Charity Navigator has awarded Rainforest Trust its highest 4-star rating due to our outstanding cost efficiency and program effectiveness.

We are extremely grateful that our committed board members fund the majority of our operating expenses. This enables us to ensure that 100% of your project donation can fund direct conservation action.



## 2016 EXPENSES

Conservation Programs .....	<b>96.8%</b>	\$15,680,211
Philanthropy .....	<b>2.5%</b>	\$409,514
Administration .....	<b>0.7%</b>	\$111,164
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 16,200,889*</b>



\*Pre-Audit Figures

Thank you to the  
**3,061 generous**  
**donors** and  
**21 foundations**  
in all **50 states**  
and **52 countries**  
who supported  
**Rainforest Trust**  
in 2016.



# SUPPORTERS

We wish to acknowledge the individuals and organizations who donated to support Rainforest Trust's work in 2016.

## Rainforest Heroes (\$100,000+)

Conservation Alliance  
Endangered Species  
Chocolate  
Global Wildlife Conservation  
GreaterGood.org and The  
Rainforest Site  
International Conservation  
Fund of Canada  
Michael W. Louis Charitable  
Trust  
Anonymous

## Rainforest Champions (\$50,000-\$99,999)

Australian Rainforest  
Foundation  
Dansk Ornitologisk Forening  
Doolin Foundation for  
Biodiversity  
March Conservation Fund  
Saul and Eleanor Lerner  
Foundation  
The Spurlino Foundation  
Anonymous

## Rainforest Guardians (\$10,000-\$49,999)

Ariel Premium Supply, Inc.  
The Barrett Foundation  
The Beckendorf-Hill Family  
Trust  
Benevity Social Ventures:  
American Endowment  
Foundation  
Biodiversity Consultancy  
The Bromley Charitable Fund  
BTS USA, Inc.  
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Northern Piedmont  
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Oklahoma City Zoo and  
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Orchid Conservation Alliance  
RAW Foundation  
The Shared Earth Foundation  
Shearwater Foundation  
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Foundation: Maidenherren  
Fund  
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Living Fund  
Wallace Genetic Foundation  
William K. Bowes, Jr.  
Foundation  
The Wolf Creek Charitable  
Foundation  
Anonymous

## Rainforest Friends (\$1,000-\$9,999)

AAZK, Greater Sacramento  
AAZK, San Diego  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
Anna McWane Charitable  
Foundation  
The Antero Charitable  
Foundation  
Apex Expeditions  
AUBSU Green Team  
Beach Elementary School  
Beautiful Dreams Fund  
Bernard W. Abrams Family  
Foundation  
Biodiversity Books  
BioIntegrity  
Boston Foundation: Muddy  
Pond Trust Fund  
Bright Funds Foundation  
Bruce and Lori Laitman  
Rosenblum Family Fund  
Carl E. Kessler Family  
Foundation  
The Carl W. Kohls Revocable  
Trust  
Cavander Gelstein Charitable  
Fund  
The Chris and Melody  
Malachowsky Family  
Foundation

Chubb Charitable Foundation  
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Foundation)  
Crane Country Day School  
DeWoskin/Roskin Foundation  
Donald D. Niemann Trust  
Dun Foundation  
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EnviroBuild  
The Ernest Lowenstein  
Foundation  
FactSet Research Systems  
Field Guides, Inc.  
The Firefly Trust  
Google One Today  
The Grace Jones Richardson  
Trust  
The Green Album  
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ING Financial Services  
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School  
Rainforest Information  
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Growers Association  
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Van Evera Family Trust  
Victoria Stack Family Trust  
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Anonymous

## Memorial Tribute

Robert Youngblood

# ROOTS MONTHLY GIVING

**The strength of our Roots lets us reach for the sky.**

.....

Rainforest Trust Roots members provide strength and stability to our work by giving monthly to support our most pressing conservation needs. Whether Rainforest Trust is helping local partners purchase acres, create nature reserves, establish national parks or declare protected areas, our supporters' monthly gifts enable us to act with the utmost efficiency. Roots members can choose to support a specific project or give to the Conservation Fund, which often provides funding to complete projects and enables us to leverage additional matching gifts for the greatest impact.

**Why monthly giving is convenient:**

- Fewer emails: your steadfast commitment means you receive fewer emails, and we have more time to devote to conservation
- Quarterly rewards: these include behind the scenes photos, videos, webinars or access to our conservationists
- Watch your impact grow: month to month, year to year, you are investing in an incredible legacy



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



**Dr. Edward Aller**

Dr. Edward Aller has been enthralled with wildlife since the very beginning of his life. The son of marine scientists, he spent much of his childhood exploring forests, beaches, mangroves and reefs. Edward's passion for nature was cemented after a month-long tropical rainforest ecology course during college. Living and working in a remote village, he learned how to set up a nursery and cultivate plants to reforest degraded areas. "I became a veterinarian with the dream of someday working with endangered wildlife," Edward said. He continues to help animals of all origins, including a Giant Anteater he encountered during a recent trip to Brazil. By supporting Rainforest Trust as a Roots member, Edward has helped save more than 248 acres and intends to keep going!

# PLANNED GIVING

**Our conservation supporters who make planned gifts have an extraordinary impact on our work.**

.....

Rainforest Trust shares a dream with our supporters: that rainforests and the species that call them home will survive far into the future, beyond our lifetimes and those of our children and grandchildren. Safeguarding these crucial habitats is a gift for the future, a legacy of which we are proud.

Choosing to include Rainforest Trust in your estate planning makes a tangible conservation impact. Legacy gifts - bequests and other planned gifts - enable Rainforest Trust to help save land that positively impacts endangered species, the climate and humankind.

Planned Giving allows you to balance your financial goals with your charitable interests and make a lasting difference for the future of our planet.

For more information about planned giving, please call us toll free at 1.800.456.4930 or email us at [info@RainforestTrust.org](mailto:info@RainforestTrust.org).



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



**Christine Volker**

Christine Volker found Rainforest Trust while planning her estate. “What attracted me to Rainforest Trust was its approach with local partners which goes hand-in-hand toward protecting the whole ecosystem and that wonderful, magical interdependence which exists in those highly diverse biological areas,” she said. Visiting the Amazon rainforest in 2002 left quite an impression on Christine. She decided to request some information from Rainforest Trust and then made a provision in her IRA to support the conservation organization. “It was very simple,” she said. The rainforest has even worked its way into two of her novels. Christine recently retired from a long career at Wells Fargo, and has blended her love of rainforests with her passion for literature. Her two novels, *Venetian Blood* and *Jaguar Moon*, both feature themes of conservation and wildlife.



# RAINFOREST TRUST®

*www.RainforestTrust.org*

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