

# RAINFOREST TRUST®

VOL. XIII: 2020

**BEYOND THE  
TREES**

# HEALTHY FORESTS, HEALTHY PLANET

Forests protect and provide for all of Earth's species. Trees anchor forest ecosystems. When ecological integrity is fractured through processes like deforestation, conditions are created that enable the spread and often emergence of diseases. It is only then that we are reminded of the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

The virus behind COVID-19 is zoonotic, meaning it originated in animals, but can infect humans when the opportunity arises. Deforestation, encroachment of natural habitats, extraction and consumption of wildlife and other human impacts create the optimal environment for these viruses to "jump" from one species to another and to us.

At Rainforest Trust, our holistic approach extends protection to the ecosystem **"BEYOND THE TREES."**

By protecting forests — **OUR FRONTLINE DEFENSE** — we halt the downward spiral of events triggered by degraded ecosystems. Healthy forests, healthy wildlife and healthy people equal a healthy planet. We are one.



RAINFOREST  
TRUST®

We purchase and protect threatened tropical habitats to save endangered wildlife through local partnerships and community engagement.

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Look out for these icons throughout the newsletter: they signify **BONUS CONTENT** found in the digital version which can be found on our site at: [www.rainforesttrust.org/newsletters](http://www.rainforesttrust.org/newsletters)



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1 (800) 456-4930

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Warrenton, VA 20188

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# LETTER FROM THE CEO



**DEAR FRIENDS,**

As this latest edition of the Rainforest Trust newsletter goes to print, we find ourselves in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us hope and trust that all of you and your families are safe and well.

As you may know, the spillover of COVID-19 into humans resulted directly from our destruction of nature and consumption of wildlife. So as we strive to respond to the immediate crisis, let us not forget to prevent the next one by – **PROTECTING NATURE AND WILDLIFE, ESPECIALLY THE RAINFOREST.**

But I also have good news. I am delighted to announce that, after a comprehensive search, Rainforest Trust's Board of Directors has named **Dr. James Deutsch** as our new **CEO**.

James has over 20 years experience in global conservation. A recent accomplishment was the completion of the Great Elephant Census, which was instrumental in closing ivory markets and reducing poaching across Africa.

In the coming weeks, James will be reaching out to discuss his vision for Rainforest Trust.

I am honored that our Board and James have asked me to fill the new role of Vice President, Strategic Initiatives. It has been an honor to lead Rainforest Trust since last June, and I am very much looking forward to supporting James and the team as we negotiate these critical times.

This month, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and its call for climate action. Earth Day, in many ways, captures Rainforest Trust and what we do.

The last 12 months have made clear the urgent need for conservation action. From fires raging across Australia and the world's rainforests, to the COVID-19 emergency, **THE PLANET IS IN CRISIS.**

With your support, we are doubling down on our commitment: safeguarding tropical habitat, saving endangered species, protecting our planet.

During these troubled times, we hope you will stay safe and well, and we thank you sincerely for your continued interest and investment in Rainforest Trust.

Together, we have saved **23.6 MILLION ACRES**. Over the coming months and years, we will need you more than ever.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Mark R. Gruin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Gruin  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
April 3, 2020

# EARTH DAY



**1970** **FIRST EARTH DAY ESTABLISHED**  
The first *Earth Day* is established, giving a voice to the growing environmental movement.

**1986** **SAVE THE RAINFOREST**  
The "*save the rainforest*" movement begins, garnering international attention.  
The world takes notice of tropical rainforest disappearing at an increased rate because of road construction and commercial and agricultural development.



**1992** **EARTH SUMMIT**  
*Earth Day* movement begins, is recognized globally culminating in the first *Earth Summit*, held in Rio de Janeiro

**1976** **GLOBAL WARMING DISCUSSION**  
Geologist Wallace Broecker introduces the term "*global warming*" in his article *Climatic Change: Are We on the Brink of a Pronounced Global Warming?*

The global climate becomes a topic of discussion among scientists; human activity like deforestation and pollution are regarded as possible disruptions to the climate.

**1988** **RAINFOREST TRUST FOUNDED**  
*Rainforest Trust* is founded by three conservationists dedicated to preserving Latin America's most threatened tropical habitat.

*We emerge with a clear mission: to purchase and protect threatened ecosystems and save endangered wildlife through community engagement and local partnerships.*

That same year, the United Nations officially recognizes climate change as a global threat by creating the *UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*.

**1989** **SIERRA DE LAS MINAS**  
Rainforest Trust celebrates the first protected area we helped create, the *11,001-acre Sierra de Las Minas Reserve in Guatemala*.

This reserve, still protected today, safeguarded one of the largest intact cloud forests in Central America and the resident threatened amphibians, birds and plants.



**RAINFOREST TRUST**

### GLOBAL ROLE IN CONSERVATION

Rainforest Trust reaches a turning point. To increase our conservation impact, we assume a *global role* in habitat protection and expand the scope of projects beyond Latin America to Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean as well.

2013

### SAVES CHALLENGE

#### SAVES CHALLENGE PLEDGE

Rainforest Trust pledges to invest *\$100 million* to save tropical habitats over four years.

2016

#### 23.5 MILLION ACRES AND COUNTING

So far, we have protected over *23.5 million acres worldwide and counting.*

2020

2003

#### 2.2 MILLION ACRE RESERVE

Rainforest Trust celebrates its first multi-million acre victory in helping to establish the *2.2-million acre Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve* in the Peruvian Amazon.

2015

#### 10 MILLION ACRES

Rainforest Trust reaches a landmark of protection: *saving 10 million acres* of imperiled tropical habitat across the globe.

2019

#### WILDFIRES, CLIMATE STRIKE

*Tragic wildfires* spread through critical rainforests in South America, Asia and Africa.

In response to these tragedies, *Rainforest Trust participates in the first ever Climate Strike in Washington D.C.*

The UN International Panel on Climate Change releases a report in August emphasizing the need for land conservation in the wake of the current drastic deforestation rates.





# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

## BECKETT MCGRATH LEADS THE "PROTECTION OF EARTH"

**"I THINK YOUNG PEOPLE** should work for conservation because they will be living in the place they build for themselves," said Beckett McGrath, a ten year-old student who has united his classmates and local community to support Rainforest Trust's work.

Beckett attends the Treehouse Learning Community in Georgetown, Texas – a part-time school for homeschooled students led by his mom, Traci McGrath. He, along with his friends and peers, channelled their shared passion for the environment to organize their own club: "Protection of Earth" or "P.O.E." They meet during their free time after school and research endangered species, make posters to spread awareness and brainstorm ways to support conservation.

Beckett and P.O.E. first connected with Rainforest Trust when they were organizing



a "Run for the Rainforest" in the Spring of 2019. Traci and Beckett researched many organizations, but ultimately decided to fundraise for Rainforest Trust.

**"WE LOVED THE THOUGHT OF CONSERVING RAINFOREST, NOT ONLY FOR ITS OWN RIGHT, BUT BECAUSE ITS EXISTENCE HELPS EVERY OTHER CREATURE & HABITAT ON EARTH," SAID TRACI.**

"I noticed your high ratings on Charity Navigator, and loved the way your team welcomed Beckett's questions and involvement. Your team cares very much and it shows!"

Most recently, P.O.E. created handmade lanterns for their school's Lantern Walk. "The annual Lantern Walk takes place in November; we take a walk through the forest, under the stars, carrying our lanterns," said Traci. "When it came time for the walk this year, Beckett and his friends from P.O.E. realized they could make and sell some extra handmade lanterns and donate the proceeds to Rainforest Trust's conservation work."

The students' deep-rooted appreciation for the natural world was passed down to them by their parents. "The families in our learning community all seem to have a deep respect for nature and a commitment to making time for their young kids to spend outdoors," said Traci.

"I believe the passion for conservation we are seeing emerge in our kids is the result of years spent as toddlers and younger kids, wading in streams and rivers, hiking and climbing trees. They fell in love with the natural world and now they will do anything to protect it."

Traci believes it is of the utmost importance to make sure children are empowered to make a change on their own. "I felt the early years were a time to fall in love with nature," said Traci. "Now that they are more aware, reading and hearing about issues like climate change, it is important to give them tangible ways to help and make a difference." Beckett and P.O.E. are currently developing a second "Run for the Rainforest" and show no signs of slowing down. He knows that preserving the environment today will eventually shape the future.

You have the power to make a lasting difference and protect the rainforest too. If you are a teacher, school staff member or parent who is interested in supporting Rainforest Trust, learn more about our Rainforest Ambassadors Program. Any student or class can participate, and have access to fundraising ideas. When you support Rainforest Trust, your donation goes directly to our projects around the world – saving land, protecting species, empowering communities and securing a future for the entire planet.



# LAOS

## PROTECTING CRITICAL MOUNTAIN FOREST IN LAOS

**THE GREATER ANNAMITE MOUNTAINS**, which straddle Laos, Vietnam and northeast Cambodia, are often ranked as one of the world's 200 most important bioregions because of their high levels of endemism. However, in recent years, illegal hunting has escalated in this montane forest habitat, with rampant snaring as the primary threat to the species that call this region home.

Rainforest Trust and our local partner, Asian Arks, are working together to support the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic to establish the 130,996-acre Khoum Xe Nong Ma (KXNM) National Protected Area in one of the most vital forest blocks of the region adjacent to Laving Laveun National Protected Area. Designating KXNM will expand the country's protected area network.

The Annamite Mountain range is home to several incredibly rare species, including the Critically Endangered Saola — often referred to as the "Asian Unicorn." The Annamites are also the most important known site in the world for Critically Endangered Large-antlered Muntjac and home to the Endangered Annamite Striped Rabbit.

The local communities, made up of the indigenous Makong and Chilee ethnic groups, are an integral part of this project.

Because of the communities' strong cultural connection to the region, Asian Arks has engaged them at every stage of the project as they are a critical part of its long-term sustainability. Local residents will work in the ranger training center, research station and ecotourism operations.

**"OUR PARTNER HAS DEVELOPED AN INNOVATIVE MODEL THAT INCLUDES NEGOTIATING A LONG-TERM LEASE TO MANAGE AREAS INSIDE KXNM WHERE THEY WILL ATTAIN THE MUCH-NEEDED RESOURCES FOR PATROLLING, BIODIVERSITY MONITORING & HABITAT MANAGEMENT," SAID STEVEN BERNACKI,**

Rainforest Trust Asia Conservation Officer. "We are thrilled to be working with Asian Arks on this new approach to sustainable conservation in the country."



SAOLA

*Pseudoryx nghetbensis*



ANNAMITE  
STRIPED RABBIT

*Nesolagus timminsi*





# GUATEMALA

## RAINFOREST TRUST PARTNER CREATES WOMEN'S CLINIC



**WHEN THE PLANET SUFFERS** environmental devastation and loss of natural resources, people suffer as well. Impoverished communities that rely the most on nature are also the most at risk; they are often isolated and left without access to basic resources, education or healthcare. More frequently than ever, their environment is increasingly degraded by harmful human activity, like deforestation.

As anthropogenic actions edge Earth further into the climate crisis, these populations are left with limited recourse and stand to lose access to essential ecosystem services, further fueling the cycle of poverty.

Climate change also has a disproportionate impact among genders, leaving women especially vulnerable. In many communities, women are responsible for gathering or producing food, collecting water and sourcing fuel, making them more susceptible to the fluctuations of an unstable climate. But, in these areas, women also hold incredible potential

to help drive local adaptation to a new climate reality. With that, promoting women's health and education is key to developing climate resiliency.

Rainforest Trust's partner in Guatemala, Fundación Para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO), works with local communities to establish women's clinics in each protected area they create. Their model empowers women by providing access to sexual and reproductive health services, family planning, educational scholarships and support for economic activities. They also provide essential training for midwives, medicines and other technical assistance.

"We integrated sexual and reproductive health services 12 years ago after realizing the high levels of mortality among women in the communities living within protected areas where we work," said Ingrid Arias, FUNDAECO Institutional Development Director. "Sadly, community members, especially women and children, live in places with high biodiversity levels but lack access to basic health and education services due to lack of resources, poverty and inequality."

So far, FUNDAECO manages a network of 24 clinics offering 12 health services, as well as two mobile units and two urban clinics in the Caribbean. They are now opening a new clinic to support the La

Gloria community. The new facility will be located within Cerro Amay, a large network of protected areas that preserves some of Central America's last remaining tropical cloud forest. Rainforest Trust has been working with FUNDAECO for several years to strategically protect the entire region from logging and road development.

"The community became interested in establishing a clinic after a health fair was implemented in La Gloria, and our team shared the experience from another community nearby," said Arias. The clinic opening is a huge step for this community and will support the nearly 600 people who live on the reserve.

**"THIS WILL BE THE FIRST CLINIC IN CERRO AMAY & HOPEFULLY WILL BE A MODEL FOR OTHER COMMUNITIES TO REPLICATE," SAID ARIAS.**

Without land preservation and support for the women in these communities to better manage natural resources, it will be difficult to develop sustainable solutions. Rainforest Trust is honored to work with partners like FUNDAECO who encourage and strengthen the basic rights of women in and around protected areas, empowering them to take the control they need so they can lead their communities to a healthier future.





Scalloped Hammerhead



# COSTA RICA

## PROTECTING BLUE CARBON

**ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS** of our Earth's surface is ocean. The Earth's marine and freshwater ecosystems are critical to balance the overall health of our planet. The various types of coastal and marine habitats — including mangroves, seagrass meadows and tidal marshes — store and sequester large amounts of carbon accumulated over thousands of years. These ecosystems operate as natural carbon sinks and store "blue carbon," reducing its concentration in the atmosphere.

What's more — blue carbon ecosystems are also critical in helping communities survive during the climate crisis. Protecting watersheds from source to sea or "ridge to reef" helps ensure that local populations have access to clean water and food security.

When these ecosystems are degraded or destroyed, blue carbon is released back into the atmosphere, permanently

disrupting natural processes and contributing to an unstable global climate. In addition, the vast array of biodiversity that relies on these ecosystems is put in danger of extinction and coastal communities suffer from the loss of ecosystem services, including nutrient cycling, floodwater attenuation and pollution buffering.

Rainforest Trust recognizes that protecting these habitats is crucial to mitigate climate change. In 2018, we worked closely with our local partner, Misión Tiburón, to create the Scalloped Hammerhead Shark Sanctuary. It is the first-ever shark sanctuary in the country, named as such because it contains vital nursery habitat for this Critically Endangered species.

Located along the Coto River of Golfo Dolce, the protected area encompasses one of only four tropical fjords in the world. Fjords are valleys surrounded by steep cliffs that link large marine

ecosystems and smaller streams or rivers. They serve as a pathway between land and sea for wildlife, often hosting a wide range of unique wildlife and blue carbon ecosystems.

This vibrant habitat is one of the largest fjords, making it ideal for a variety of species like Tiger Sharks, Whale Sharks, Hawksbill Turtles and Olive Ridley Turtles. The coastal shallows also support Green Turtles, Bull Sharks, Blacktip Sharks and Whitetip Reef Sharks, among many others.

However, these fragile areas that link terrestrial and marine environments face degradation from pollution and agricultural runoff. Coastal resources are exploited, mangroves are cleared — exposing delicate coastlines — and whales and sharks are often illegally hunted. To ensure the long-term protection of this tropical environment, our partner is restricting human activity along the gulf, which will ban capture of hammerheads and stop exploitation of marine resources.

Rainforest Trust and our partner are proud to be developing management strategies and expansions to the protected area that we hope will be the paradigm for other coastal conservation in the region.



Scalloped Hammerhead





# ECUADOR

## RAINFOREST TRUST AND FUNDACIÓN DE CONSERVACIÓN JOCOTOCO

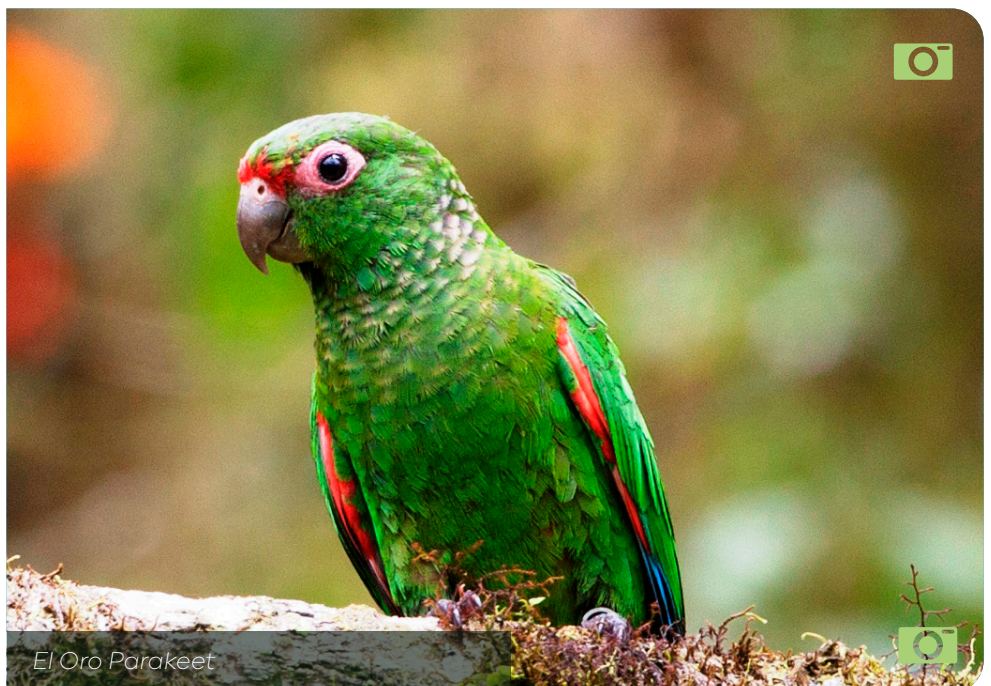
Establishing a protected area is just the first step for Rainforest Trust. After a reserve is created, we strive to establish long-lasting relationships with our partners to ensure the land is protected in perpetuity. We also help develop strategic plans to expand established protected areas in order to safeguard the most essential portions of an ecosystem from outside threats.

Perhaps the best example of this is our extensive portfolio of protected areas in Ecuador with our longest-running partner, Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco. Working together for over two decades, we have safeguarded over 294,000 acres (an area nearly the size of New York City) across the country's most critical rainforest habitat, and counting. ▶

### BUENAVENTURA RESERVE

The Buenaventura Reserve was started by Dr. Robert Ridgely, a co-founder of Jocotoco and Rainforest Trust's President. When Jocotoco was established in 1998, he began strategically purchasing land in the Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena, a tropical forest that extends from western Colombia through northwestern Ecuador. The area is home to at least 15 globally threatened bird species, including the Endangered El Oro Parakeet and Ecuadorian Tapaculo.

Currently, Buenaventura spans 6,919 acres, but because the region suffers from a high annual deforestation rate of 2%, we are working to double the size to a total of 12,355 acres and ensure that the wider landscape is protected in perpetuity.



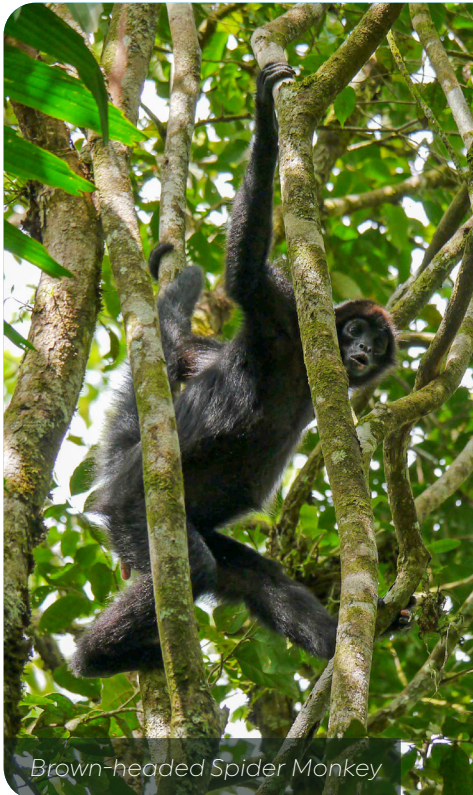
El Oro Parakeet



## CANANDÉ RESERVE

Like Buenaventura, the Canandé Reserve was established to protect the rare and threatened Chocó forests of Ecuador. Since 2005, Rainforest Trust and Jocotoco have been working to continually expand the reserve, which now safeguards 8,485 acres of rainforest from commercial and agricultural development. In the near future, Jocotoco will expand Canandé by an additional 7,941 acres to close remaining gaps in the landscape.

The reserve is a key part of the Chocó Endemic Bird Area, home to 62 range-restricted endemic bird species. It is also home to two Critically Endangered magnolia species, as well as the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey.



*Brown-headed Spider Monkey*



*Great Green Macaw*



## DR. ROBERT RIDGELY

On a beautiful day in late August 1979, Robert Ridgely was a young graduate student exploring Ecuador for his PhD, studying the parrots of South America. One day, he and his travel partner Paul Greenfield ventured up a mountain and into some tropical cloud forest when a flock of parrots flew past them.

Almost right away, he realized that this was an entirely new species. Years later, Ridgely returned and officially described the species, naming it the El Oro Parakeet after the province it is from. And in 1998, he helped create Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco; immediately, he worked to establish the Buenaventura Reserve, which now protects the primary population of the species.



**2479**  
**MEGATONNES**  
OF CARBON STORED  
IN CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS

# INDONESIA

## BELOW THE SURFACE: THE IMPORTANCE OF PEAT IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS

**PEAT** is formed when organic matter partially decomposes in saturated soils with wet, acidic conditions over centuries to millennia. This decaying matter absorbs surrounding water and, like a sponge, can expand to over 10 times its original weight. Peat accumulates to form peatlands, bogs and peat swamp forests.

Peat ecosystems are a major carbon sink for the planet and a key component of Earth's carbon cycle — the thick accumulation of organic matter causes these habitats to absorb twice as much carbon as a normal forest, 90% of which is stored underground.

Rainforest Trust has made protecting peat ecosystems one of our conservation priorities. Approximately 56% of the Earth's peatland is found in Southeast Asia. But, more so in this region than any other, peatland is being cleared, drained and burned for agricultural development. When they are intentionally burned, peatland becomes a carbon source, releasing centuries' worth of stored carbon into the atmosphere. Because the majority of the carbon is underground, the fires continue to burn deep in the soil for months, slowly releasing carbon the entire time. These fires also drive people and animals out of their homes.

Foundation (BNF), to designate a protected area encompassing 385,000 acres of threatened Rungan River peatland and lowland rainforest. The area hosts a range of threatened species, including 4% of the entire global population of Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutans. All five species of Bornean wild cats have also been confirmed at the site, as well as the Endangered Hairy-nosed Otter and Vulnerable Sun Bear, among many others.

Rainforest Trust and our partner have ensured that local organizations and communities are thoroughly engaged in the decision-making processes for land management and the policies that affect them. Such collaboration and inclusion is a major component of success, as local people will play a key role in supporting the long-term conservation goals of the reserve to ensure this habitat is protected in perpetuity.

Among the most valuable ecosystems on Earth, peatlands are critical for preserving global biodiversity, providing safe drinking water, minimizing flood risk and mitigating climate change. If the peat swamp forests of Borneo are completely destroyed, an immense amount of carbon will be released, fueling climate change — species will lose their homes and people will lose access to resources. Our work in Borneo is pivotal to protecting vital carbon sinks, species and people.



The peat swamp forest surrounding the Rungan River in Indonesian Borneo harbors high biodiversity, but has been excessively burned throughout the past 25 years to develop commercial oil palm plantations. To help prevent any further damage to the region, Rainforest Trust has been working with our local partner, Borneo Nature

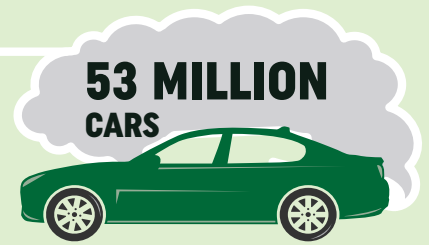


Bornean Orangutan



## **WE ARE WORKING WITH OUR PARTNER BNF TO SAVE CARBON STORED UNDERGROUND IN PEAT SWAMPS –**

**The carbon stored in the Rungan River project is equivalent to the yearly emissions of 53 million cars in the US.**





# MADAGASCAR

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

**CLIMATE CHANGE** puts all of our planet's species at risk of extinction — including our own.

Globally, people from all walks of life are experiencing the subtle and sharp effects of our changing climate. But impoverished communities stand to lose the most in the climate crisis. These people depend heavily on natural resources, often extracting them through crude and unsustainable practices. They have minimal capacity to adapt their lifestyles in the face of shifting weather patterns, rising sea levels or weather extremes.

For over three decades, Rainforest Trust has made community engagement a cornerstone of our approach to establishing protected areas. In collaboration with our local partners, we empower communities in and around our project sites to gain access to their basic rights, manage their use of natural resources responsibly, and develop sustainable livelihood interventions.



Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world, but it is also heavily populated. The island is famous for its amazing and endemic biodiversity but it also ranks among the world's poorest nations, which has contributed to significant deforestation and habitat loss. Its geographical location has also left it incredibly vulnerable to climate change.

Island nations bear the brunt of our changing climate, with rising sea levels and increasing extreme weather. The rising temperatures have made seasons unpredictable with extended drought and increased frequency and ferocity of storms. As Madagascar is often in the direct path of cyclones, the island is also suffering from increasing floods and erosion. Because of these compounded threats to biodiversity and communities alike, conservation work must integrate communities and find solutions that benefit both wildlife and people.

In 2018, Rainforest Trust and local partner Madagasikara Voakajy began working to establish a new protected area in the northern part of the country. The proposed 83,711-acre Complexe Bobaomby Reserve is home to many threatened and endemic plant and animal species like the Green Golden Frog, Crowned Lemur and *Adansonia suarezensis*, or "Diego's Baobab."

Unfortunately, the surrounding local communities subsist by farming, fishing and harvesting charcoal unsustainably. But part of our work in the area has included engaging and empowering local communities to manage their natural resources and create sustainable livelihoods that will improve their resilience.

Because they depend on nature for survival, we are working with them to identify and meet their needs through sustainable practices or alternatives. Training exercises are provided that inspire them to create a vision of how they want to leverage conservation in their communities to provide security in the future. Community education in conservation helps these communities consider and develop a sustainable approach to survive the climate crisis and mitigate the effects on their region.

Rainforest Trust is proud to help communities protect their environment, prepare for climate change and equip them with the tools they need to thrive. Without this kind of dedicated engagement enthusiasm, our projects would not be possible. Only by working together can we create a healthier, more resilient planet.





# MEXICO

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO PROTECT OUR RESERVES

**AN IMPORTANT PART OF** Rainforest Trust's work after the creation of a reserve is to monitor the status of the protected area, using technology to notify our partners of any emerging problems or threats.

Our Science and Monitoring team recently conducted an analysis of all forest loss in our protected areas using Global Forest Watch (GFW) — an open-source Geographic Information System (GIS) web application that monitors global forest change. Our team detected some potential forest loss within three properties in the Monte Mojino Reserve in Mexico. According to the GFW data, nearly 4.8 acres of forest appeared to have been deforested. Rainforest Trust notified our partner, Naturaleza y Cultura Sierra Madre (NCSM), so they could take immediate action, particularly in the event of a wildfire.

Upon receiving the alert from Rainforest Trust, the NCSM team conducted drone overflights of the areas to verify and investigate any threats from above. As an action plan, six drones with defined areas were programmed and sent to monitor all zones marked as "potentially deforested" by GFW.

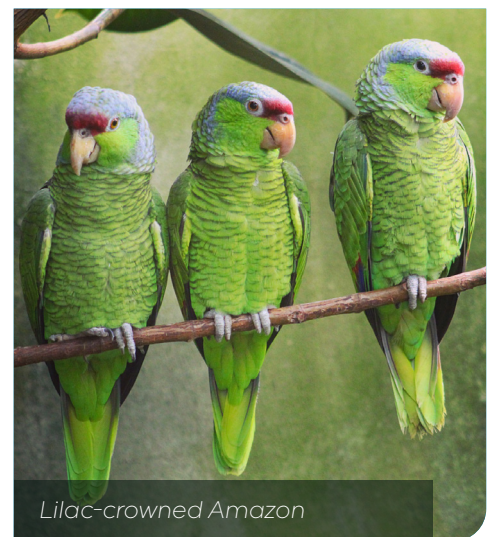
The NCSM team was only able to view four of the six affected areas and fortunately, no actual forest loss was observed on the land through the drone flights— meaning that a portion of the reading was probably related to error in the data.

**"THE FOREST LOSS DATA MIGHT NOT BE PERFECT, BUT THE FACT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY & TRACK POTENTIAL DEFORESTATION FROM THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, FOR PROTECTED AREAS ACROSS THE ENTIRE GLOBE, & ALERT OUR PARTNERS TO POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IS A HUGE STEP," SAID KARL DIDIER,**

Director of Science and Monitoring at Rainforest Trust. "Especially in the wake of the tragic fires that spread through the world's critical forests just a few short months ago, the communication between us and our partners is critical in the long-term health of our reserves."

In an ever-changing environment compounded by a changing climate,

Lydia Lozano, NCSM's Mexico Program Director believes that GIS and satellite monitoring technology will help overcome many of these challenges. "As we gather new information and know more about these forests, we see the reserve changes constantly. The use of technology like satellite imageries, weather stations, camera traps and drones has really changed what I consider to be 'true' on the reserve, and opens doors we have not yet considered," said Lozano. "For example, prevention of natural processes due to climate change, such as wildfires and other extreme climate events that end in erosion of the soil through the watershed, etc. — so we are the ones that are adapting to this alive and changing ecosystem, trying to manage it for its protection."



Lilac-crowned Amazon

## LearnMore

Support Rainforest Trust conservation work around the world and learn more at [www.RainforestTrust.org](http://www.RainforestTrust.org)

## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

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### PURA VIDA BRACELETS

Griffin and Paul felt an instant connection with Costa Rica when they visited after graduating college. During their stay, they met two artisans, Jorge and Joaquin, who crafted beautiful string bracelets but could not sell enough to survive on the wages. They realized that the jewelry perfectly captured what they loved most about Costa Rica: the joy of the simple things in life. Shortly after, the four began working together and created "Pura Vida" bracelets, after the Costa Rican phrase meaning "pure life."

Now a worldwide movement with millions of bracelets sold each year, the organization works with over 800 artisans across countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador and India.

"PURA VIDA BRACELETS is so excited and grateful for the opportunity to partner with RAINFOREST TRUST again! Protecting threatened and endangered species is one of the main goals of our charity program, and one of the best ways we can do that is by saving the habitats that these species rely on. In 2019, our contribution helped conserve OVER 24,000 ACRES of tropical rainforest for endangered wildlife, and we look forward to making an even bigger impact with Rainforest Trust in 2020!"

- KRISTY RYAN,  
Pura Vida Charity Coordinator



"SAMBAZON is honored to support RAINFOREST TRUST with our #PURPLEFORTHEPLANET campaign for the 3rd consecutive year. Our commitment to cultivating and wild-harvesting açaí is Sambazon's climate action. It is how we help fight climate change and protect the environment and its rich biodiversity. To date, our partnership with Rainforest Trust has enabled us to mobilize our customers and together protect 93,080 ACRES of rainforest!"

- SEBASTIEN MARCQ,  
VP of Sambazon Global Marketing.

### SAMBAZON

Sambazon produces a variety of delicious products from açaí berries. Committed to conservation and economic empowerment, Sambazon works with a network of 20,000 local farmers in Brazil who sustainably grow açaí berries. Within their communities, they have helped establish and renovate hospitals, schools and community centers in areas that need them most. In addition to using 100% organic and fairtrade açaí, their production factories use alternative energy.