

# RAINFOREST TRUST®



VOL. XIV: 2020

**CANINE CONSERVATION HEROES**

# RAINFOREST TRUST RECEIVES PLATINUM SEAL FROM GUIDESTAR

Rainforest Trust is committed to the highest level of transparency to ensure that your donations go directly to **Conservation Action**, so we are thrilled to announce that we have received a **2020 Platinum Seal of Transparency with GuideStar**.

We are also excited to share that since 2014, Charity Navigator has recognized Rainforest Trust as one of the most efficient and effective nonprofit organizations in the country with the **highest possible rating of 4 stars**.



## BONUS CONTENT

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)

▶ VIDEO + PHOTO

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**RAINFOREST  
TRUST®**

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

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# A CALL FOR HELP

## RESPONDING TO A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

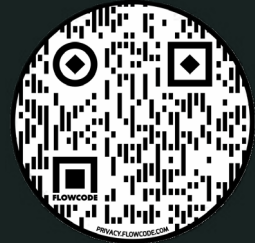
As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads globally, the impacts, both direct and indirect, to conservation projects and protected areas are being felt as governments enact measures to protect their populations. These measures include the closures of government offices, restrictions on movement and enforcement of social distancing where possible. While crucial for mitigating the spread of COVID-19, these policies also pose challenges for the establishment and maintenance of protected areas.

*In response, Rainforest Trust has created the **COVID-19 Emergency Conservation Fund** dedicated to providing **immediate assistance** to our partners during this unprecedented time.*

By helping our partners address evolving and urgent needs, we ensure that our important conservation work is not lost. We know that protecting nature is a critical first step in preventing the next global pandemic.

**OUR PARTNERS ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF CONSERVATION AROUND THE WORLD. HELP US CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM & THEIR CRITICAL WORK DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS.**

*Please consider supporting the **COVID-19 Emergency Conservation Fund***



Point your phone at the code,  
no app needed

## ECUADOR

*To limit travel, the military has **blocked roads**, resulting in **isolation** of both communities and protected areas.*

- *Reduced indigenous communities access to food and basic needs*
- *End to tourism has left them **lacking financial support.***



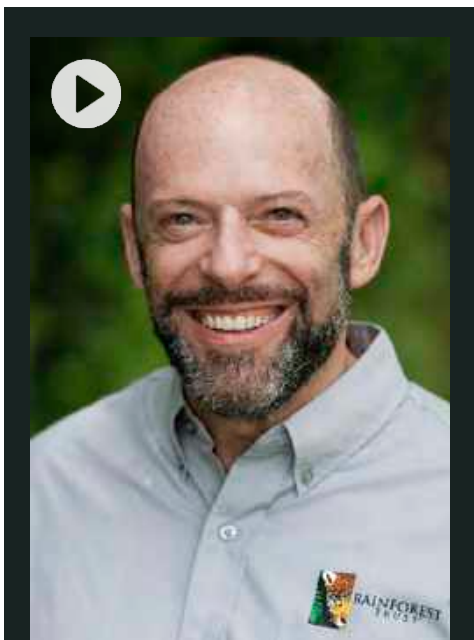
## MADAGASCAR

*To prevent the spread of the virus, a **strict lockdown** was put into effect, **causing illegal activity to increase** – from deforestation to stealing of previously confiscated wood. **Local conservation organizations have joined forces with the military and regional forest services to run patrols and intercept deforestation activity, with the support of the local government.***



## MEET DR. JAMES DEUTSCH

As James Deutsch begins his journey as Chief Executive Officer of Rainforest Trust, we virtually sat with him to learn more about his past, present and future in conservation.



### DR. JAMES DEUTSCH, CEO

*James comes to Rainforest Trust from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation where, as Director of Wildlife and Biodiversity, he oversaw the Great Elephant Census, worked with IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) to close ivory markets and save sharks and launched programs to support the Convention on Biological Diversity to dismantle wildlife trafficking networks and save coral reefs.*

#### RT: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO CONSERVATION?

JD: I grew up in Manhattan, not really a place known for its biodiversity. But like many people, I was a Ranger Rick fanatic as a kid. Then, when I was halfway through college, I took a year off to work for the Rhino Research Project in Kenya. This was in the 1980s, when rhinos and elephants were being poached catastrophically in East Africa, and that was truly a turning point for me.

#### RT: YOU STARTED YOUR CAREER AS AN ACADEMIC; WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE TO WORK IN FIELD-BASED CONSERVATION?

JD: I followed a trajectory from first being fascinated by nature, then going into its academic study. But then, during the course of that study, realizing that the places I enjoyed learning about most – whether a national park in Uganda or the extraordinary fishes of Lake Malawi – were being destroyed, and I didn't want to spend my life simply documenting their destruction. I realized I had to spend my life trying to do something about it instead.

#### RT: YOU HAVE HAD A STORIED CAREER IN CONSERVATION SO FAR; PLEASE SHARE A STORY ABOUT A TIME WHEN YOU REALIZED YOUR WORK WAS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

JD: I had the privilege of helping to end, or at least substantially reverse, the decline of elephants in Africa as a result of the ivory trade. While I was running the Africa program at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), our field staff began to report a huge escalation in elephant poaching. We pulled together a coalition of many conservation organizations behind the "96 Elephants" campaign. Later, I joined Paul Allen to guide his biodiversity philanthropy and was able to implement some of the strategies we had come up with. We supported programs that arrested high-level ivory traffickers and completed the first ever aerial count of all the savannah elephants in Africa, documenting a 30% decline in 7 years. That helped persuade countries around the world to close their domestic ivory markets, which were the main place illegal ivory was being laundered. As a result, the level of poaching in Africa declined by about 50%, and now there are even signs of elephant population increases in Eastern Africa.



**RT: HAVE YOU EVER FELT DISILLUSIONED BY SOME OF THE SAD THINGS YOU HAVE SEEN? HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THOSE FEELINGS AND CONTINUE YOUR WORK?**

JD: Both the most exquisite biodiversity and some of the most depressing conservation developments I have ever experienced come from visits to the island of Madagascar. Since human beings arrived on the island about 1,000 years ago, we have cut down 80-90% of the forest and caused large areas to become semi-arid wastelands. Witnessing that is very depressing.

But what we save is as important as what we lose. When we go to Yellowstone National Park we don't focus on the incredible loss of the bison population, or the Passenger Pigeons that went extinct, or short grass prairies that have been converted to unsustainable pasture land. When we go to Yellowstone, we focus on this incredible gem we have protected. So one hundred years from now, what we will lose will be terrible, but our descendants will thank us for what we've saved.



**RT: WHAT DREW YOU TO RAINFOREST TRUST?**

JD: When I was thinking of applying to the job, I called my friend and Chief Conservationist at WCS, Joe Walston. He said to me that creating protected areas really is the "silver bullet" for protecting biodiversity. And, Rainforest Trust is the only international NGO solely focused on that.

**RT: COVID-19 IS PRESENTING SEVERAL UNPRECEDENTED ISSUES FOR OUR PARTNERS AND RESERVES. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR WORK?**

JD: The first challenge is the collapse in tourism revenue that is already impacting many of our partners who rely on it to sustain their operations, and also to motivate communities to participate in conservation. That is why we are launching the COVID-19 Emergency Conservation Fund, to support those partners who have lost revenue or have new costs associated with the pandemic.

The second challenge is that many of our donors will be facing financial uncertainties, causing them to question whether they can continue to support us at the level that they have in the past. So, I would just ask people to stick with us and I would ask those who aren't as financially impacted to consider whether they might be able to step up their funding during this period when others won't be able to.



On a more positive note, I remain hopeful that this pandemic can teach all of us a number of lessons that are very relevant to Rainforest Trust's mission – the costs of destroying nature and the critical role of science in helping us predict and prepare for the future.

**RT: LOOKING FORWARD, WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR RAINFOREST TRUST?**

JD: Over the past five years, the Rainforest Trust donors, partners, board and staff have grown the impact of the organization by 10 times. Whether you measure that in the number of acres, species, projects or money raised, it is an extraordinary accomplishment. Our world, all of us, have about 10 more years to save at least a third of the land area of the Earth in order to create a livable future for the species on this planet, including our own. So the question is, how does Rainforest Trust continue to scale up our contribution to that global effort? I look forward to working with the whole Rainforest Trust family on what the answer is.



## CEDIA: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

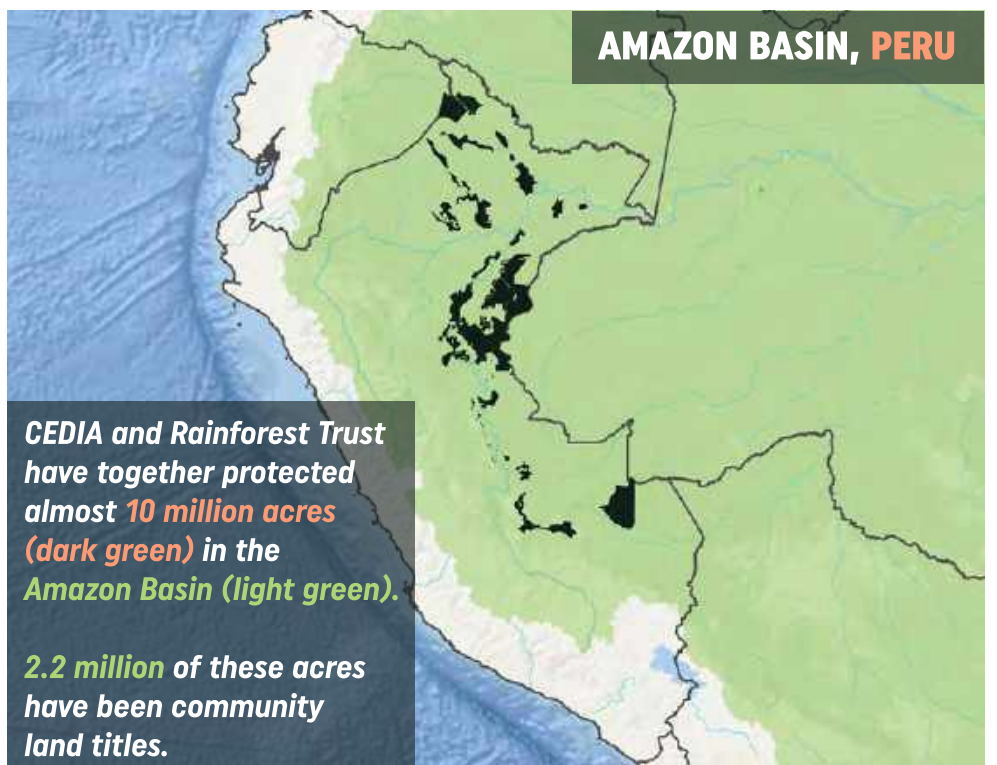
**PERU HOLDS THE** second-largest share of the Amazon rainforest of any nation, with the forest spanning over half the country's land area. Traditionally, this land has been occupied and protected by indigenous groups that depend on its natural resources.

But unfortunately, many of these communities have historically lacked legal rights to their land. Rainforest Trust has been working with our partner, Center for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon (CEDIA), for over 20 years to help 85 indigenous communities gain title over 2.2 million acres. But even after the titling process is complete, work must continue to ensure that communities can sustainably maintain and protect their land for years to come. This is achieved via the "Life Plan." Life Plans are legally recognized 10-year plans, tailored to the specific needs of each community's economy and environment.

**"LIFE PLANS ESSENTIALLY CREATE A LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE FUTURE & OUTLINE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE COMMUNITY GOALS," SAID DANI RIVERA, CEDIA PROJECT MANAGER.**

Crafting a Life Plan begins with a voluntary process where community leaders gather to identify strategies for sustainable resource management. In the past

five years alone, Life Plans have empowered communities to create five local schools, as well as develop community-led implementation of natural resource management plans, including the development of new regional conservation areas with support of CEDIA. Like the land title, Life Plans further empower indigenous communities to sustainably manage their land. Working together, Rainforest Trust, CEDIA and the indigenous communities will protect land and wildlife in the Amazon to usher in a sustainable future.





## QUE BOTTLE

**AVID TRAVELERS**, Kevin Shen and Jean Wu love spending time in nature and have always held a passion for Earth's biodiversity. But during their journeys, they came to realize the large amount of single-use plastics made available, simply because of their convenience. Single-use plastics are slow to decompose, causing them to be a leading pollutant of our land, waterways and oceans.

que Bottle is an active member of the corporate Conservation Circle, a membership program for companies that want to invest in Rainforest Trust's work on an annual basis. que Bottle has created special edition bottles to support our work and donates a percentage of all sales. In the wake of COVID-19, que Bottle is actively engaging with their local community and partners, including Rainforest Trust, to support them during this difficult time.

Since its founding only 4 years ago, que Bottle has reached a wide audience and raised environmental awareness through partnerships with conservation organizations around the world, including Rainforest Trust. Limited edition que Bottles have been created to help fundraise for a variety of projects, including Côte d'Ivoire's First Marine Protected Area in West Africa.

que Bottle shows their customers first-hand the positive impact they have by changing something as simple as how they drink their water. "We wanted to design products that can make our everyday experiences better without giving up convenience so people would prefer sustainable alternatives," said Jean.

**"WE WANT TO EMPOWER PEOPLE BY PROVIDING PRODUCTS THAT ARE MADE SUSTAINABLY, DESIGNED WITH QUALITY AND BRING POSITIVE CHANGE TO PEOPLE'S EVERYDAY LIFE."**

Along with the support of their team, Kevin and Jean hope to continue to inspire audiences with their message in the future and keep encouraging people around the world to do their part.



The businesses that collaborate with us are critical to the success of Rainforest Trust. These organizations help support our conservation work, and many are also using their products to make an impact on the planet in their own right.



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*que Bottle has created special edition bottles to support our work and donates a percentage of all sales. In the wake of COVID-19, que Bottle is actively engaging with their local community and partners, including Rainforest Trust, to support them during this difficult time.*



## CONSERVATION CANINES

"Man's best friend." Search and rescue for firefighters and law enforcement. Companions for those in need.

Dogs are well known for the many roles they take on to make the world a better place. But "adept conservationists" is also prominently on that list. Dogs around the world are trained to track poachers, detect wildlife trafficking, patrol protected areas and even sniff out evidence of threatened species. Many of Rainforest Trust's partners proudly have conservation dogs on their team and work with them in a variety of capacities to increase the safety of their reserves and their inhabitants.



### RIMBA

Rimba – one of Rainforest Trust's local partners in Malaysia – is currently in the process of developing a canine tracking unit to integrate into their patrols. They created the tracking unit to assist in locating poacher camps, which is a challenging part of their work.

They have recruited Phiri, a Belgian malinois, for future deployment in Kenyir State Park once they learn about the abilities and possible limitations of a canine tracking unit in a tropical forest environment.

Phiri is trained to catch the scent of poachers through detecting smells in the air and on the ground, as well as covertly alerting his handler when a camp is nearby.

But when Phiri is off-duty, he gets to be a happy pet at home with a dedicated handler from the patrol team staff.

### THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Rainforest Trust's partner in South Africa, currently has 16 "Conservation Canines" that serve in many different capacities throughout the organization. "Our EWT Conservation Canines are trained in tracking and detection work, as part of our work to address poaching and smuggling of wildlife products," said Dr. Jeanne Tarrant, Program Manager for EWT's Threatened Amphibian Programme.

Jessie, a border collie, has been critical in Jeanne's work locating the Critically Endangered Amathole Toad. At only about 1.5 inches long, these rare toads are extremely difficult to find by simply searching or listening for them.

Jessie has been trained with the scent of closely related toads to locate the species and will be trained with the scent of the Amathole Toad when possible.





The EWT Conservation Canines like Jessie are either deployed in the field at strategic reserves around the country or based at their headquarters in Johannesburg. When they are not on the job, they are cared for by their handlers. When these canines "retire," they are often adopted out to the handler or a loving family.

**LEWA** Rainforest Trust's local partner in Kenya, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, has used dogs as an integral part of their anti-poaching operations since the late 1990s. Their canine units have exponentially increased their conservation success within the conservancy. "The dogs have enhanced night operations and scent-tracking," said Georgina Domberger, Lewa's International Executive Director.

"The dogs also are an important deterrent of dangerous situations such as ambushes; they have the

unique ability to quickly alert their handlers of perceived threats and new scents." These dogs are considered part of their team and the handlers work with each dog's individual personality to find the best method for success.

The canine units work in a variety of capacities within the conservancy, including detecting poaching incidents, helping locate missing people and supporting night patrols in any areas of concern.

**"OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES, LEWA'S RANGER DOGS, ALONGSIDE THEIR HANDLERS, HAVE CONTINUED TO ENHANCE SECURITY FOR BOTH WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN KENYA WHENEVER CALLED UPON," GEORGINA SAID.**

"Their success has helped increase global understanding of the integral role dogs can play in conservation."

## DOGS IN CONSERVATION HELP:

*Find poachers & suspicious persons from a crime scene*

*Monitor reserve perimeters*

*Detect a wide variety of wildlife products*

*Track poacher camps*

*Locate endangered species*

*Sniff out invasive species & diseases*



## FRANCIS OSEI-GYAN: EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Rainforest Trust Fellow Francis Osei-Gyan works as a Conservation Officer for our local partner in Ghana, Herp Conservation Ghana (Herp-Ghana). He and the rest of the Herp-Ghana team travel to schools around the country to educate young students about the importance of conservation. Recently, they were recruited by a local school to teach students about new frog discoveries in Ghana. He wrote on his experience:

### CONSERVATION AWARENESS AT ENAS HYBRID SCHOOL, GHANA

Herp-Ghana's vision is to produce a society committed to conserving amphibians, reptiles and the ecosystems they depend on. In order to do so, we conduct conservation outreach in schools to shape the minds of our future generations to develop a positive mindset concerning biodiversity conservation.

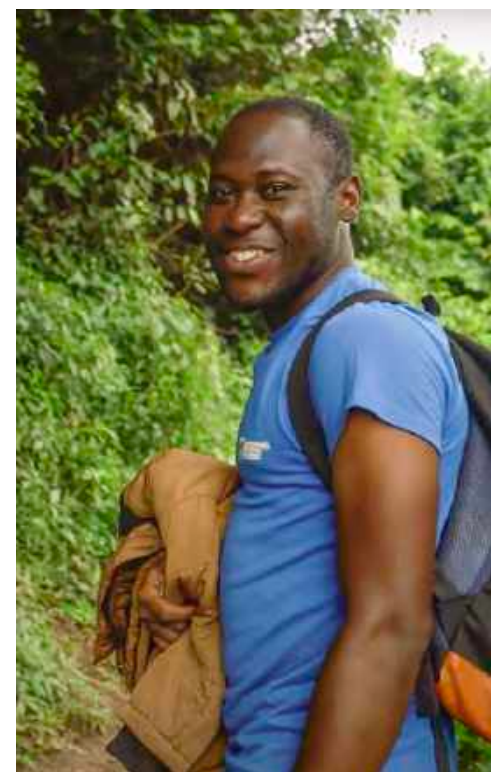
Often, we will plan and initiate outreach programs, but we were thrilled when we got an invitation from ENAS Hybrid, an international

school in Kumasi, Ghana, to give a presentation on the Critically Endangered Togo Slippery Frog, rediscovered by Dr. Caleb Ofori-Boateng, the Director of Herp-Ghana. We believe that children are still forming their opinions about life, and there are clear opportunities to help them fall in love with wildlife. In the short term, we hope these students adopt environmentally-sensitive behaviors such as reducing plastic waste and avoiding bushmeat consumption. In the long-term, we hope that these children will grow to become our country's policy-makers, heads of businesses and legislators who support species conservation.

In March, a team from Herp-Ghana set off to conduct this important awareness activity. We taught the students about frog conservation, as well as Afia Birago's Puddle Frog (*Phrynobatrachus afiabirago*), a new frog species discovered in Ghana. Both teachers and students asked many interesting questions and remained excited about conservation weeks after our outreach program and have asked us to visit them again.

One of the students made a remarkable comment, which reminded us of why we do what we do.

**SHE SAID, "I NEVER KNEW FROGS COULD BE INTERESTING. THEY PROVIDE A LOT OF BENEFITS TO MANKIND."**





## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN LIBERIA

**LIBERIA'S** Upper Guinea Forest is home to some of the world's most iconic wildlife, including the African Elephant and the Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamus. But now, nearly 70% of the Upper Guinea Forest has disappeared, and the rest is highly fragmented.

Increasing pressure from deforestation and unsustainable resource use has made the Upper Guinea Forest a globally recognized conservation priority. The local communities are also among the most vulnerable in the country. Their remote location has left them with restricted access to education, health and agricultural support, forcing them to rely heavily on natural resources.

Rainforest Trust and its local partner, the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), have been working with local clans to protect this imperiled ecosystem through the creation of five Community Forest reserves, spanning 318,520 acres. This project will expand Liberia's protected area network by linking to Gola Forest National Park, which Rainforest Trust helped SCNL establish in 2016, and Foya Forest Reserve.

The new Community Forests are the first in the country and present a unique and important opportunity for the people who

rely on the forest most. "We chose community forest to link the Gola Forest National Park because there is a legal framework which will give communities the right to own and manage their forest," said Michael Garbo, Executive Director of SCNL.

**"THE COMMUNITIES ARE ENTHUSIASTIC TO WORK WITH SCNL TO SUSTAINABLY MANAGE THE FOREST, AND SINCE THE LAND WILL BELONG TO THE COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITY FORESTS WILL INCREASE OVERALL PROTECTION OF THE LAND."**

SCNL will be working with each community to develop management strategies in accordance with their specific needs, including sustainable agricultural practices and improved governance.

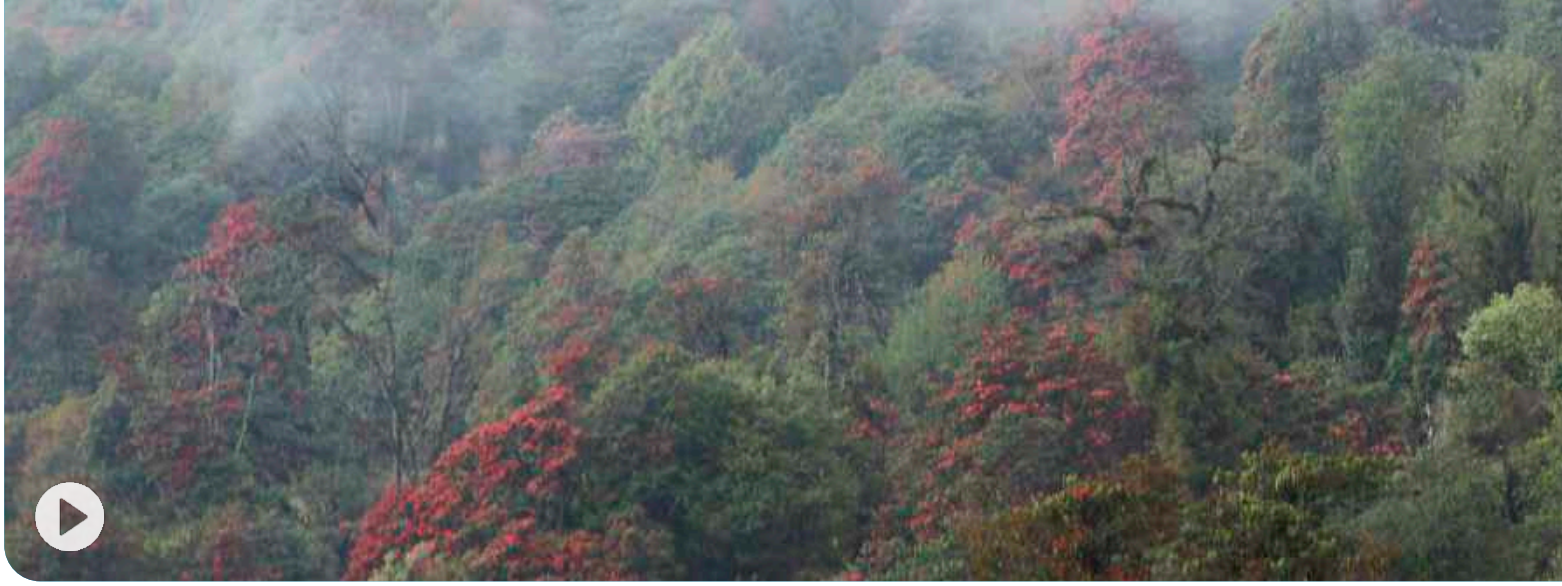
Giving communities legal rights to their land is an important step in preserving the biological integrity of the forest. "Through the creation of Community Forests, each community has the right to play an integral part in the management of their forest resources and improve the livelihoods of the next generation," said Garbo.

By supporting the local communities and empowering them to sustainably manage their land, Rainforest Trust and SCNL are supporting both thriving communities and the long-term

protection of the Upper Guinea Forest's rich biodiversity. SCNL will be able to use the success of this project model to set a standard for the future of conservation in the region.



White-necked Rockfowl



## CONNECTING A VERTICAL COMMUNITY FOR CONSERVATION



Red Panda

**MANY OF RAINFOREST TRUST'S** projects connect isolated habitat patches to reunite fragmented ecosystems. This connectivity promotes both wildlife population sustainability and landscape-scale conservation. But many projects also unite people from different communities, fostering cooperation and supporting conservation in cities, towns and villages near protected areas.



Himalayan Monal

In Nepal, that process of connecting ecosystems and people couldn't be more apparent. Rainforest Trust's partner KTK-BELT is on a multi-year, multi-project mission to save habitat in a belt from the country's lowlands to the Himalayan highlands through community outreach and land protection.

Together, the two organizations have already protected a lowland

wetland hotspot and forests and alpine pastures in the highlands. They're also working on securing hundreds of thousands of acres in two new "community-protected landscapes," a new reserve category with joint community and government management.

Recently, KTK-BELT and Rainforest Trust completed land purchases covering 153 acres in the Tinjure-Milkhe-Jaljale (TMJ) forest. These purchases have helped prevent future road expansion and connected existing reserves to set the stage for protecting the larger landscape.

This area, within the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity hotspot, is home to 832 flowering plant species, including 28 of the country's 32 rhododendron species. Thirty mammal species live here, including the Critically Endangered Chinese Pangolin and the Endangered Dhole, Red Panda and Himalayan Musk Deer. The TMJ area is also home to 274 bird species, including the Endangered Steppe Eagle.

In addition to protecting habitat, the purchased land will house one of KTK-BELT's six "learning grounds", which will focus on education about local flora and fauna. At these six sites, which will span the protected belt, the goal is





to bring people together to think about conservation and work on climate- and biodiversity-sensitive methods of development.

"We can — and should — support all of the conservation land purchases and declarations possible," said Rajeev Goyal, one of KTK-BELT's co-founders and co-directors.

"But the way to create lasting change is to alter people's attitudes and mindset towards nature, to make them understand the connection of their own wellbeing to the preservation of wild places."

That's why these learning centers are at the core of KTK-BELT's efforts. Protecting habitat from the lowlands to the Himalayas is vital to preserving Nepal's wildlife — but conservation strategies need to line up with local realities. As you might imagine, land use in a tropical, flat village looks very different from land use in a cold, alpine town. These learning grounds are part of a larger effort to give each community and region a sense of ownership over conservation.

Priyanka Bista, an architect and KTK-BELT's other co-founder and co-director, designed the building to accentuate the local landscape. Each site's programming and design will reflect the realities of that community and focus on their own, specific natural surroundings.

At one of these centers, KTK-BELT already hosts movie nights, environmental education programs

for children and discussions on sustainable landscape planning. This work connects people from different communities to share ideas, knowledge and enthusiasm. In addition to localized programming, KTK-BELT is working on scaling this and other educational work into a "vertical university" to connect communities across the belt.

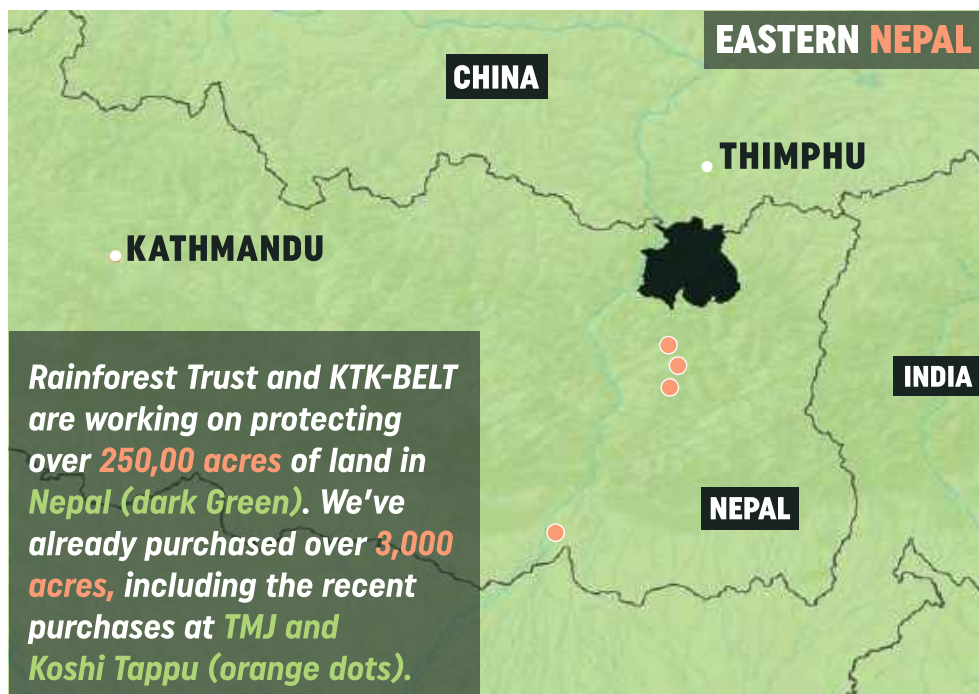
"The goal is to engage local rural youth to explore and understand how biodiversity and architecture can merge and intersect in powerful ways," said Priyanka.

"For too long, these fields have been siloed. Local people have deeply embedded knowledge about their own landscapes, accumulated over generations, of great value to design and conservation alike.

The vertical university learning grounds aim to fortify, celebrate and share this knowledge, while embodying nature-friendly principles and standards that can be replicated in the villages connected by the vertical university."

**"THIS PROJECT SHOULD INSPIRE US ALL TO THINK ABOUT HOW WE CAN REFOCUS CONSERVATION ON COMMUNITIES," SAID FELICIA SPECTOR, RAINFOREST TRUST'S ASIA-PACIFIC CONSERVATION OFFICER.**

"KTK-BELT's outreach work reminds us that without people and enthusiasm, it's hard to make any lasting change." Through this outreach work, Rainforest Trust and KTK-BELT are supporting a true sustainable future — one where conservation is led by the communities themselves.





Spoon-billed Sandpiper

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON NAN THAR

**IN 2019**, Rainforest Trust began a partnership with Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) to designate the 8,916-acre Nan Thar Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

Just off the coast of Myanmar, the new protected area will safeguard critical parts of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway — the most threatened flight path for migratory birds in the world.

BANCA staff member and Rainforest Trust Conservation Fellow Ei Thinzar Aung conducts surveys and monitors biodiversity. Recently, Aung started mentoring communities in conservation.

**"I LIKE TO WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO ENHANCE THEIR AWARENESS IN BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE USE," SAID AUNG.**

Aung and BANCA will implement the Conducting Communication, Education, Participation, and Practices (CEPA) program to improve the communities' understanding of benefits from the Nan Thar Island Wildlife Sanctuary designation and educate them about the importance of protecting the island's unique biodiversity.

Engaged communities underpin successful protected areas.

This is why so many of Rainforest Trusts projects invest in communities and their leaders to ensure the future of conservation.





## WHITLEY AWARD WINNERS 2020

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Conservation science is already a rewarding field of work. But that doesn't mean people don't deserve acknowledgement in the form of actual awards. The Whitley Fund for Nature, an organization based in the UK, has been awarding exceptional conservation work from across the Global South for over two decades. Informally known as the "Green Oscars," the Whitley Award recognizes impactful, inspiring work on the ground to protect wild species and places. Over the years, Rainforest Trust has had the pleasure of working with many Whitley Award winners. But this year, not one, not two, but three of our partners have received this honor. All hailing from Africa, these organizations and individuals earned this honor through their hard work, dedication and expertise.



**DR. JEANNE TARRANT, ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST (EWT), SOUTH AFRICA**

Dr. Jeanne Tarrant is leading the charge on amphibian conservation in South Africa, a hotspot for endemic and threatened frogs. One local endemic is the Amathole Toad, which actually went unseen for 13 years before Dr. Tarrant and her team rediscovered it in 2011.

The EWT and Rainforest Trust have partnered to protect habitat for the toad and other species in a mosaic of protected areas in South Africa's Eastern Cape.



**DR. ABDULLAHI ALI, HIROLA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (HCP), KENYA**

Dr. Abdullahi Ali is one of the world's leading experts on the Hirola, a Critically Endangered antelope endemic to the eastern border region between Kenya and Somalia. Scientists estimate that fewer than 250 Hirolas remain in the wild and Dr. Ali has helped protect some of their last remaining strongholds and populations. The Hirola Conservation Program has worked with Rainforest Trust to create two protected areas and work with local herders to support a long-term sustainable future for the species and region.



**RACHEL IKEMEH, SW/NIGER DELTA FOREST PROJECT, NIGERIA**

Rachel Ikemeh leads the SW/Niger Delta Forest Project in Nigeria, where she focuses on protecting and researching primates in the country's south.

She, her team and Rainforest Trust are currently collaborating on a rapid assessment of conservation feasibility for the Critically Endangered Niger Delta Red Colobus and other primates.

# Urgent Protection

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

## NEW PROJECT

The Leuser Ecosystem is the largest intact forest area remaining on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia.

The landscape ranges from coastal peat swamps to high mountain tops, which allows the region to support rich biodiversity – *it is the last place on Earth where orangutans, elephants and Tigers coexist in the wild.*

Human settlement into this region has resulted in the conversion of forest into palm oil plantations, exposing wildlife to poaching and creating easier access for illegal logging and mining.

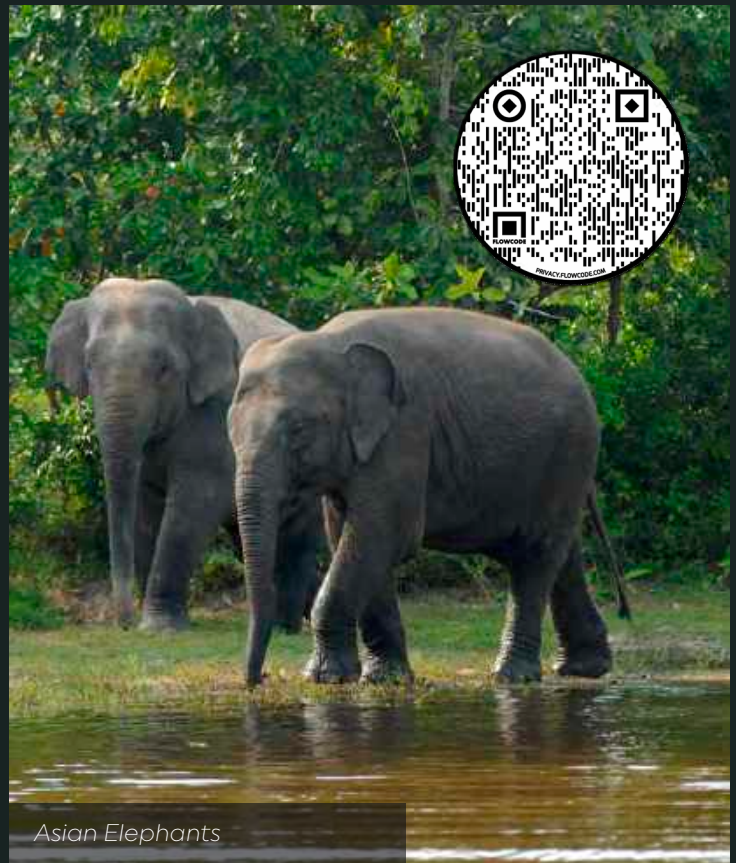
Rainforest Trust and our local partner have been working to safeguard critical portions of an important part of the Leuser.

*We now hope to expand protection to the region by 2,472 acres.*

This land will secure a wildlife corridor for Asian Elephants, Sumatran Orangutans, Tigers, White-crowned Hornbills, Lar Gibbons and Sun Bears.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! SUPPORT OUR URGENT WORK TO SAFEGUARD THIS VITAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.**

[www.rainforesttrust.org/saveleuser](http://www.rainforesttrust.org/saveleuser)



Asian Elephants



Sumatran Tiger