



Western Long-beaked Echidna, by Jaganath/Wikipedia



Western-crowned Pigeon, by Ondrej Proszicky

Safeguard Spectacular Biodiversity in Crown Jewel of Papua

The "Crown Jewel of Papua" in Indonesia is one of the world's last wildernesses and it certainly merits its name. It is a spectacularly biodiverse, carbon-rich landscape of 13 distinct rainforest ecosystems ranging from high mountains to lowlands, savanna, peatlands and mangroves. Located within one of the largest rainforests on Earth, it is at least 93% intact, primary forests.

The growing threat of habitat loss through deforestation and conversion of forests for palm oil plantations is spreading across the region, along with increased mining and logging. Poverty plagues local communities, making them vulnerable to exploitation by outsiders.

These brewing threats have sparked urgency to move quickly to protect a landscape of over 5.6 million acres across the West Papua and Southwest Papua provinces of Indonesia, on the island of New Guinea. But conservation here faces complex social-political and practical challenges.

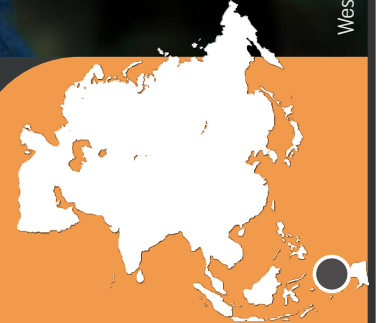
Rainforest Trust has supported local partner Yayasan Ekosistem Nusantara Berkelanjutan (EcoNusa) since 2022 to support the government of Indonesia's social forestry program in the Crown Jewel of Papua area. They have been working with Indigenous communities in the region since 2017 on policy, mapping, livelihoods and capacity-building. We are now positioned to move forward and seek \$1,326,705 to support the establishment of 120,000 acres as Customary Forests (Hutan Adat) or Village Forests (Hutan Desa) whereby the ownership and/or management rights for three Indigenous communities will be legally recognized, allowing them to manage and protect their traditional territories and forests.

SAVE MEGA-BIODIVERSITY IN INDONESIA

The phenomenal rainforests here host thousands of species. The areas chosen for conservation contribute to a vast, integrated conservation landscape within the Crown Jewel of Papua, linked together by natural corridors.

Threatened mammal species to be protected include Critically Endangered Western Long-beaked Echidna, a quill-covered, egg-laying mammal, and Black-spotted Cuscus, a large nocturnal marsupial. Endangered Spectacled Flying Fox and several tree kangaroo species also live here.

The Vulnerable Western Crowned Pigeon, the flightless Northern Cassowary and Vulnerable Pesquet's Parrot are endemic bird species threatened by hunting and habitat loss. The world-famous, endemic birds-of-paradise also share this landscape.



120,000
ACRES

\$1,326,705
PROJECT COST

\$11.06
COST PER ACRE

50,404,869 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

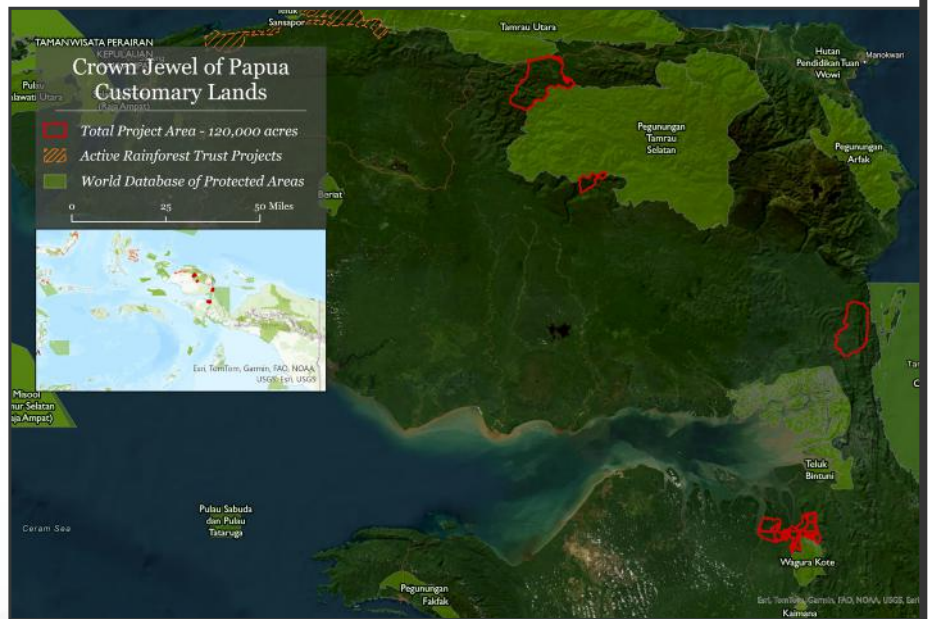
Black-spotted Cuscus (CR),
Western Long-beaked
Echidna (CR),
Vogelkop Tree Kangaroo (VU),
Western Crowned-pigeon (VU),
Pesquet's Parrot (VU)



SUPPORT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AS THE BEST CUSTODIANS OF NATURE

The Customary and Village Forests supported by this project are in three areas of the Crown Jewel of Papua, each belonging to a single tribe. The community-based forest protection will be achieved in collaboration with local Indigenous communities, Forest Management Units and all levels of government (village, district, provincial and national).

Indigenous-based, forest-friendly business models and social innovation aligned with conservation are the key to success. The areas will be managed through commonly agreed-upon mechanisms or regulations. Local communities will participate in patrolling and research, drawing on Indigenous knowledge. Once areas are designated as Hutan Adat communal lands, they are recognized in perpetuity and can no longer be sold or transferred. In the case of Hutan Desa Village Forests, communities are given renewable management rights for 35 years under the oversight of the Forestry officials. The decision to create Hutan Adat or Hutan Desa will be determined in close consultation with communities. In either case, commercial-scale logging, hunting and mining will be prohibited.



The Crown Jewel of Papua landscape, by Rainforest Trust

