



## Save the Lost Birds of Mt. Sahendaruman

In the remote reaches of an extinct volcano on Sangihe Island in Indonesia, a biodiversity hotspot of the highest order holds the last-remaining populations of some of Earth's most threatened birds.

Found nowhere else on Earth, four species of rare birds and two species of rare mammals survive in pockets of unprotected areas on rugged Mount Sahendaruman, situated on the southwestern shore of Sangihe Island. Two additional species of rare birds are found here as well as on nearby islands.

Agricultural expansion has already caused major destruction of the birds' limited habitat, pushing them to the verge of extinction. And the pressure is growing as forests continue to be converted to open up new areas for agriculture, and as small-scale gold mining is becoming more of a threat.

The most threatened among them include the Critically Endangered Sangihe Whistler, Cerulean Flycatcher, Sangihe Golden Bulbul and Sangihe White-eye, and the Endangered Sangihe Pitta and Elegant Sunbird. Several of these birds were not seen for 100+ years, and were only recently discovered in the last 20 years or less after expeditions were undertaken to find them.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Burung Indonesia, seek \$822,330 to support the declaration of 7,756 acres of primary forest habitat on Mt. Sahendaruman as an Area of High Biodiversity Value recognized by the Government of Indonesia. The project also advocates for designation of 494 acres as Village Forests, creating a buffer against further encroachment and forest clearing on the mountain peaks. The goal is to immediately protect the birds' known habitats, regularly monitor their status, and increase local awareness of the importance and uniqueness of these exceptional birds.

### PROTECT WHAT LITTLE IS LEFT OF RARE BIRDS' HABITAT

Four critically endangered birds are restricted to a tiny area of habitat within the Mt. Sahendaruman crater of less than 2,000 acres—habitat that continues to decline. The Sangihe White-eye is the least known of the rare birds here, and is probably the most threatened, with an estimated 50 or less individuals hanging on in one location. The Cerulean Flycatcher and Sangihe Golden Bulbul's populations number 150 birds each at most, and about 255 Sangihe Whistlers remain.



**7,756**  
ACRES

**\$822,330**  
PROJECT COST

**\$106.02**  
COST PER ACRE

**874,824 mT**  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

### KEY SPECIES:

Sangihe Whistler (CR),  
Sangihe White-eye (CR),  
Cerulean Flycatcher (CR),  
Sangihe Golden Bulbul (CR),  
Talaud Bear Cuscus (CR),  
Sangihe Pitta (EN),  
Elegant Sunbird (EN),  
Sangihe Tarsier (EN)





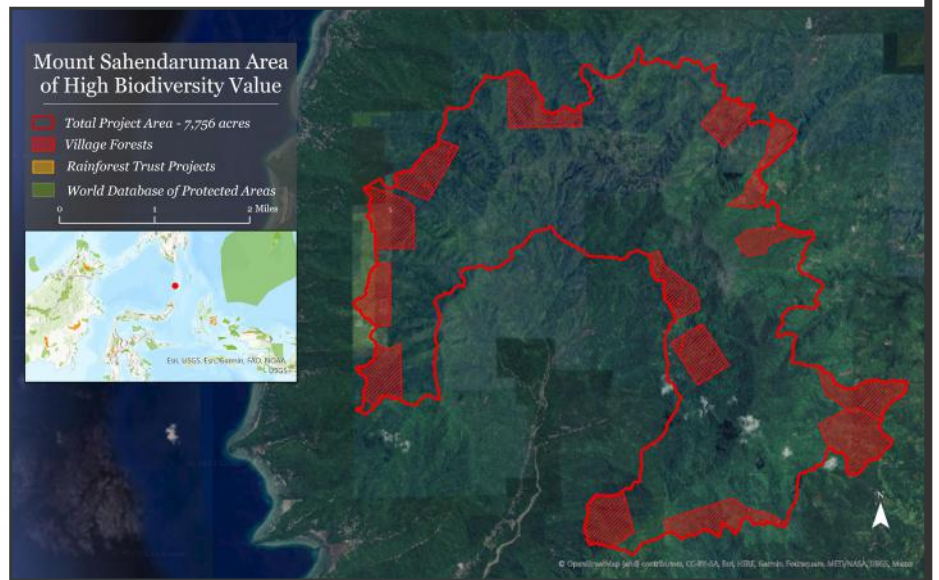
Talaud Bear Cuscus © Burung Indonesia and BirdLife International

Sangihe Island belongs to a chain of small islands that extends from Mindandnao in the Philippines to the northern tip of Sulawesi in Indonesia. Its geographic isolation over millions of years has resulted in many species unique to only Sangihe Island or to the island chain. The Critically Endangered Talaud Bear Cuscus and Endangered Sangihe Tarsier are also threatened by habitat loss here. In terms of preventing the extinction of numerous species, this is a top priority for global conservation.

## REDUCE THREATS FROM COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE AND MINING

The 8,619-acre mountain area is currently classified as a watershed protection forest in recognition of its importance as a main source of water for approximately 64,000 people living in the surrounding area. But this status leaves the forests open to threats. Most of the original forest has been replaced by coconut, pepper, nutmeg and clove plantations, and mining for gold and copper is a significant threat.

Surrounding community members, the government and other stakeholders will participate in biodiversity assessments and in defining the boundaries of the project's distinct areas and management approaches, with a focus on reducing pressure on the primary forests. Livelihood supports will be included to encourage sustained participation of community members in protecting these target areas.



Landscape of Mount Sahendaruman © Burung Indonesia and BirdLife International

