

PROPOSED PROJECT  
**Papua New Guinea**



Tree Kangaroo, courtesy of TCAI



Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo or Weimang, courtesy of TCAI

## Protect Rare Marsupials in the Third Largest Rainforest in the World

The most celebrated marsupials—mammals whose unique method of nurturing their young features a pouch—are undoubtedly Red Kangaroos and Koalas, both native to Australia. But in nearby Papua New Guinea, at least 49 out of 335 global species of marsupial survive in the wild.

The island of New Guinea is considered to be one of the last tropical wilderness areas left on Earth, as it is home to the third-largest tract of intact tropical forest after the Amazon and Congo rainforests. It contains unparalleled biodiversity and endemism. However, only 3.9% of Papua New Guinea is covered by formal protected areas.

The spectacular Torricelli Mountain Range in the northwestern area of the country is blanketed by tropical rainforest sloping up from the sea to over 5,400 feet in elevation. Beautiful waterfalls flow among towering, ancient virgin forests hung with moss, hosting a rare diversity of life. Shockingly, zero percent of the Torricellis are officially protected, and the region faces growing threats from industrial-scale logging.

Rainforest Trust seeks \$1,306,038 to support our local partner, Tenkile Conservation Alliance Inc. (TCA), to work with Indigenous Peoples from 43 villages to legally protect 148,000 acres of their ancestral territories against commercial logging, mining and hunting through legal agreements called "Conservation Deeds." TCA aspires to also secure an overlapping designation of Community Conservation Area (CCA) to further safeguard biodiversity and the rights of Indigenous communities.

### SAVE RARE MARSUPIALS AND OTHER SPECIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

While occupying only 1% of the world's land mass, Papua New Guinea hosts almost 7% of the world's biodiversity, 30% of which is endemic. It is home to 12 of the 14 known species of tree kangaroos.

Four critically endangered, endemic marsupials urgently need protection. The Tenkile's population has been devastated by hunting, with only about 200 mature individuals surviving. This project will protect 40% of its global range in one of the last strongholds of intact habitat. Thirty percent of the Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo's range will be protected. The Northern Glider is restricted to less than 25,000 acres, and an encouraging 75% of its global range will be protected here, along with habitat for the Black-spotted Cuscus.

The endemic Endangered frog *Oreophryne cameroni* and Endangered Northern Hydromyine, a water rat, will see 20% and 54% of their ranges protected, respectively.



**148,000**  
ACRES

**\$1,306,038**  
PROJECT COST

**\$8.82**  
COST PER ACRE

**36,180,944 mT**  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

#### KEY SPECIES:

Scott's Tree Kangaroo/Tenkile (CR),  
Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo/Weimang (CR),  
Northern Glider (CR),  
Black-spotted Cuscus (CR),  
*Oreophryne cameroni* (EN),  
Northern Hydromyine (EN)

Camera trap image of the Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo or Weimang, courtesy of TCAI



## SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

Our partner was founded to save the Critically Endangered Tenkile tree kangaroo from extinction. For 20 years, they have worked in the Torricelli Mountains with Indigenous communities, government and other stakeholders to establish voluntary, sustainable conservation and management of fragile rainforests. They have helped local people develop livelihood alternatives and reduce hunting of threatened species, enabling populations of Tenkile and some other species to grow considerably.

In 2020, Rainforest Trust's New Safe Haven for Matschie's Tree-kangaroo project safeguarded 223,187 acres of rainforest in Papua New Guinea. As we recognize the global importance of this island, we anticipate supporting many more projects in this extraordinary region of the world.



The Torricelli Mountain Range landscape, courtesy of TCAI

