## RANFOREST IMPACT REPORT 2018



















# RAINFORESTSARE THEARE THEPINNACLEOF LIFE'SDIVERSITY &COMPLEXITY.



# BUT THEIR SPLENDOR HASN'T PROTECTED THEM FROM CATACLYSMIC DESTRUCTION.



WE PROTECT RAINFORESTS TO PROTECT OUR PLANET. ALL OF US — FROM PEOPLE TO SWORDFISH TO MUSHROOMS TO CROCODILES TO ELEPHANTS — NEED THE RAINFORESTS.

**BECAUSE EVEN IF THEY SOMETIMES FEEL FAR AWAY, AINFORESTS S** 

OVER THESE PAGES, WE'LL TRAVEL ACROSS THE WORLD'S TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS AND LEARN ABOUT THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES THEY FACE. BUT WE'LL ALSO LEARN ABOUT THE MANY SOLUTIONS WE'RE IMPLEMENTING TO PROTECT THEM.



## RAINFOREST **TRUST'S STRATEGY**

**RAINFOREST TRUST** protects the world's most threatened species and secures rainforest vital to the planet's future. But the organization needs to make a big impact with limited resources.

That's why Rainforest Trust has always taken a strategic approach to conservation – to permanently purchase and protect the world's most critical tropical forests.

The organization's strategy begins by determining priority conservation sites. Often, these sites are Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are locations determined by scientists to have significant importance to global biodiversity.

Rainforest Trust's conservation scientists then analyze each potential new protected area for its conservation value and likelihood of ground-level investment. After board approval and with the generous support of donors, Rainforest Trust works hand-in-hand with local partners to permanently protect these key habitats.

But the best conservation solution for each site doesn't always look the same. So Rainforest Trust protects rainforest using three distinct methods: purchasing land, designating new parks or establishing indigenous community reserves. Land purchases are acquisitions of smaller plots of land in high-value areas, often made to save the last population of a threatened species.

Designations for new national parks or reserves can cover entire landscapes or vulnerable wildlife populations. And community conservation focuses on either helping indigenous communities gain legal rights to their land or working with communities to set aside land for conservation.

In each situation, the formula for any Rainforest Trust protected area involves high biodiversity value, potential scalable impact by connecting to other protected areas and a local partner committed to establishing and protecting the new reserve or park.

No matter the species present, the conservation approach or the final acreage, each of Rainforest Trust's projects are on the cutting edge of conservation. And by prioritizing the most threatened species with tailormade approaches to conservation and engaging local communities in care of the forests, Rainforest Trust can maximize its impact on the planet's future.









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## LETTER FROM THE CEO

## **DEAR FRIENDS,**

2018 was a big year for Rainforest Trust.

In years past, we've produced an Annual Report to reflect on the past calendar year's achievements. But 2018 was no ordinary year. So we decided we needed something more than an ordinary Annual Report.

Our successes included plenty of new protected ecosystems.

## In 2018, we saved 1.9 million acres of tropical habitat — or one acre every 16 seconds.

And with that land, we've now protected a total of over 20 million acres. That's larger than Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey combined.

But we did more than protect acres. Last year, we celebrated our organization's 30th anniversary by looking back on three decades of conservation success. We launched our new Fellows and Guardians Programs to support on-the-ground conservationists around the world. We hosted the largest species-naming auction in history to raise tens of thousands of dollars for conservation.

As Rainforest Trust has grown from a small nonprofit to an internationally recognized organization, we've been able to protect more land every year. With more land came more protected species, more unlogged trees and

more empowered communities. But as For the rainforests, we've grown, we've also been able to expand the scope of our conservation work beyond simple statistics.

Last year, we shared more stories than ever before. We connected with more people looking to help protect the planet than ever before. We learned more about how far our work can go and how inspirational conservation can be to people around the world.

And that's why we wanted something more than an Annual Report. We wanted something that told some of those stories and built some of those connections.

We wanted something that showcased our impact.

So instead of an annual report, this year we're presenting an "Impact Report" to demonstrate our impact across the tropics with tangible metrics and fresh ideas for our planet's future.

I'm excited to share this publication with you so you can read and reflect on the work we accomplished together last year. Without your generosity, none of what this report describes would have been possible.

Thank you for all you have done and thank you in advance for your continued support.



## DR. PAUL SALAMAN, CEO

P.S. Please share this Impact Report with your friends so they too will see how important our shared passion really is!





## LATIN AMERICA

ONB TOTAL

TOTAL

620,348

ACRES SAVED IN LATIN AMERICA

AINFORES FELLOWS

THE TROPICAL AMERICAS, STRETCHING FROM MEXICO THROUGH BOLIVIA, HAVE THE MOST BIODIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS ON EARTH. BUT THEY'RE ALSO FACING SOME OF THE MOST COMPLICATED THREATS.

IN 2018, WE NEEDED TO COME UP WITH UNIQUE SOLUTIONS TO UNIQUE CHALLENGES AT OUR **PROJECT SITES IN LATIN AMERICA.** 

FROM THE SHARK HABITATS OF COSTA RICA, THROUGH THE HYPERDIVERSE FORESTS OF ECUADOR AND **COLOMBIA AND DOWN TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY** LANDS IN PERU, WE HAD PLENTY OF WORK TO DO.

**BUT THROUGH OUR DEDICATED PARTNERSHIPS, THAT** HARD WORK LED TO CONSERVATION OUTCOMES THAT FIT EACH PLACE, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS WILDLIFE.

Traine 1



## GOLFO DULCE





**ACRES** 

10,403

**GOLFO DULCE SITS ON** Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, tucked between the mainland and the Osa Peninsula. The waters of this unique tropical fjord are fishing areas for communities lining the shore. But they're also vital habitat for the Endangered Scalloped Hammerhead shark.

Rainforest Trust is working with local partner Misión Tiburón to protect the most important areas of the Golfo Dulce ecosystem. And in 2018, the first part of that plan came to fruition.

This past May, the outgoing President of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís, created the 10,403-acre Golfo Dulce Hammerhead Shark Sanctuary in the gulf. This is the first Shark Sanctuary in Costa Rica. That protection status comes with both strict protections and requisite community commitment.

"The announcement by the Costa Rican government designating a Shark Sanctuary in Golfo Dulce is a critical step in protecting this nursery for Scalloped Hammerheads and other endangered species," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "We congratulate President Solís for making this designation."

The new sanctuary has some of the country's most vital shark nursery habitat. Every year, Scalloped Hammerheads return from the open ocean to raise pups here. Food abundance and relative safety from predators makes this an ideal location for the threatened species to reproduce. Other sharks living in the gulf include Tiger Sharks, Bull Sharks, Blacktip Sharks and Whitetip Reef Sharks. Endangered Whale Sharks, the largest shark species on Earth, also congregate here seasonally.

The new reserve is one part of a larger conservation plan to protect 172,974 acres as a marine management area and shark sanctuary. These larger ecosystem safeguards will support the region's 276 fish species, 296 mollusk species, 71 macrocrustacean species



and eight whale and dolphin species. Conservation in Golfo Dulce will also benefit the wide-ranging sea turtle species who feed here, including Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtles, Endangered Green Turtles and Vulnerable Olive Ridley turtles.

The Shark Sanctuary will establish no-take zones in much of the shark nursery and adjacent Coto River wetlands. The local partner's team will conduct sanctuary patrols with the Costa Rican Coast Guard.

"When we started in 2010 to study the population of Scalloped Hammerhead shark in Golfo Dulce, we never thought it would become the first marine sanctuary for Costa Rica," said Andrés López, researcher and co-founder of Misión Tiburón. "Now, this new governance model gives us hope for the future, as we believe this is the first step to develop conservation initiatives which will benefit not only endangered species but also the local communities."

## IN 2018, RAINFOREST TRUST SAVED <u> 926,002 ACRES</u> AN AREA LARGER THAN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

**WHETHER THROUGH DESIGNATION**, **INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT OR LAND PURCHASE, WE MAKE SURE OUR PROJECTS ARE THE BEST SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT EACH LOCATION.** 



## COLOMBIA

SAVE THE RAINFOREST FOR

## EL PAUJIL



**CENTRAL COLOMBIA'S** Magdalena Valley is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. Centered around the 700-mile Magdalena River, this lowland rainforest is a biological melting pot with flora and fauna from both the

But the valley also has astounding levels of endemism, a result of its relative isolation. The Magdelena rainforest provides vital habitat for many threatened species like the **Critically Endangered Blue-billed Curassow and the Variegated Spider** Monkey. Researchers consider the latter to be one of Earth's rarest primates. The area is also home to populations of Jaguar, Spectacled Bear and Magdalena Lowland Tapir (a Critically Endangered subspecies).

Amazon and the Chocó regions.

Unfortunately, almost the entire Magdalena rainforest is already gone. Only 85 miles north of Bogotá, the region is under intense pressure for logging, cattle ranching and illicit coca plantations. Deforestation has

destroyed over 16.1 million acres (98 percent) of the region's lowland rainforests.

**ACRES** 

1,173

But, as of 2018, 1,173 more acres of the remaining forest are now safe from threats. After years of negotiations, **Rainforest Trust and partner** Fundación ProAves made a strategic purchase that blocks access to and expands the only strictly protected area in Colombia's Magdalena Valley, El Paujil Reserve.

"The loss of all but a fraction of this incredible ecosystem is a devastating blow to so many irreplaceable species," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "And though it has taken us more than 10 years to protect this last stand of lowland Magdalena rainforest next to El Paujil, we rest assured that this purchase blocks development access and provides a buffer to this critically-placed reserve."









The main focus of the El Paujil Reserve is species recovery and ecological restoration, in collaboration with nearby communities. The protected area offers environmental education activities for children and adults. including a long-running annual festival celebrating the Critically Endangered Blue-billed Curassow.



## SAVE THE RAINFOREST FOR BRDS





## GALÁPAGOS RESERVE



THE GALÁPAGOS ISLAND chain is an international conservation priority without equal. The Ecuadorean island province is one of the most biodiverse areas on Earth with an extraordinary concentration of endemic wildlife. Seeing that wildlife under threat, Rainforest Trust and partner Fundación Jocotoco worked together in 2018 to purchase 285 acres of humid forest in the highlands of San Cristóbal Island. This strategic purchase created the first privately owned nature reserve in the Galápagos.

The Galápagos is a geologically young archipelago comprised of 128 islands, islets and rocks. Much of the island habitat is already protected as a national park. But many of its threatened species are still in danger. On San Cristóbal Island, the future of the the Critically Endangered Galápagos Petrel in particular worries conservationists. The new Galápagos Nature Reserve is one of the first protections for petrel colonies on San Cristóbal island. Other species

protected in the new reserve include the Vulnerable San Cristóbal Giant Tortoise and many endemic plants and invertebrates.

In 1835, Charles Darwin arrived at the Galápagos Islands, and over the course of five weeks, discovered an astonishing diversity of unique species documented nowhere else in the world. These species included a group of finches that became central to his research. His observations, which began on San Cristóbal, laid the groundwork for one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of all time - the theory of evolution by natural selection. Darwin's insight forever changed the way we perceive the world.

Another species protected in the new reserve is the Vulnerable Woodpecker Finch, perhaps the best known of Darwin's finches. In that regard, the new reserve provides protection for both natural and cultural history.







But San Cristóbal is extremely vulnerable to development threats. The island's rich soils and lush montane vegetation have long attracted farming and settlements. Private agricultural properties dominate the southern highlands. Invasive species, from plants to livestock to parasites, threaten the remaining island habitat.

Rainforest Trust is supporting Fundación Jocotoco's work to protect additional habitat near the Galápagos Nature Reserve. Combined with last year's purchase, these efforts will protect a total of 568 acres. "With these efforts and our subsequent, sustained conservation activities, we will permanently secure one of the most unique, scientifically important and biologically outstanding areas on Earth," said Rainforest Trust **CEO Paul Salaman.** 



## **PERU LAND** TITLING



**THE PERUVIAN AMAZON** is the western corner of the world's most famous rainforest. As soon as the Andes drop off, the humidity blowing in from the tropical Atlantic changes the landscape from a dry, arid coast to a rainy, lush forest. There, we find countless insect species, vibrant birds and silent river dolphins.

Amid all that wildlife are indigenous communities, living and working throughout the dense forest landscape. Many of these communities are home to people whose families have lived in the area for hundreds of years. But only in the past 50 years have they started to receive official recognition of their right to the land and its resources. And many of these communities still don't have the full suite of recognition they need.

Often, threats to ecosystems and threats to indigenous peoples are one and the same. Without official land rights, communities can end up inside designated logging or mining zones

granted to multinational corporations. When these loggers or miners show up to deforest the area, the communities have no legal recourse to fight back.

But, with official government recognition, community lands can't be granted to these extractive industries. That's why Rainforest Trust has worked for years with a longstanding Peruvian partner, the Center for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon (CEDIA), to help these communities gain official recognition and land protection. In 2018, the two organizations continued that work in projects surrounding Sierra del Divisor National Park and the Airo Pai Community Reserve with 626,662 new acres of community land.

"The rainforests in the Amazon of Peru are home to an extraordinary concentration of biodiversity, and home to many indigenous communities. Sadly, the forests and peoples of the Amazon have all too often suffered from the relentless







**SAVED** 633,518,350



## **CO2 EQ.** STORED 82,480,390 mT

campaign to deforest and destroy this land," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "So when Rainforest Trust helps indigenous peoples secure their legal rights to their land, it not only gives them rights to block mining and logging but also gives them one of the most basic of human rights. Their land is their livelihood, central to economic rights and tied to social and cultural rights."

Communities in both of these projects are working with CEDIA staff to develop sustainable management plans for their resources. Many people in the area rely on fishing, agriculture and livestock for both sustenance and income. By ensuring the sustainability of these activities, the communities can ensure they'll benefit from the forest resources in perpetuity. In addition, wildlife in the region can thrive as the rainforest remains intact.



EACH TREE PROTECTED **STORES CARBON AND S HOME TO WILDLIFE RANGING FROM FROGS TO PARROTS TO BEETLES.** 



THE CONGO RAINFOREST, ON AFRICA'S ATLANTIC COAST, IS THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST. BUT THAT'S A FRACTION OF WHAT THE CONTINENT HAS TO OFFER.

FROM FRAGMENTED PATCHES OF ONCE-GREAT FORESTS IN THE WEST TO ISOLATED MOUNTAIN FORESTS IN THE EAST, AFRICA'S TROPICAL RAINFORESTS HARBOR SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST ICONIC SPECIES.

ELEPHANTS TREAD IN SILENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AS HORNBILLS MAKE A RACKET IN TANZANIA. PYGMY HIPPOS WALLOW IN THE MUD IN LIBERIA AS FROGS FLIRT WITH STREAMS IN GHANA.

THAT DIVERSITY IS WHY WE'VE WORKED WITH OUR LOCAL PARTNERS TO PROTECT LANDSCAPES IN AFRICA FOR OVER 10 YEARS. BUT THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES LIVING NEAR THESE FORESTS HAVE OFTEN TAKEN ON A MUCH MORE PIVOTAL ROLE.

IN 2018, WE SAW THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & CONSERVATION GROW SUPPORTING LIVELIHOODS & PROTECTING SPECIES AT THE SAME TIME.



## SAVE THE RAINFOREST FOR FROGS

## **ONEPONE** REFUGE



**GHANA'S TOGO-VOLTA HILLS** contain species isolated from the much larger rainforest blocks to the west and east. The area has not been extensively explored, and researchers expect this lush rainforest to harbor many threatened, endemic and possibly new-to-science species. This extraordinary biodiversity makes the Togo-Volta a priority conservation area. But there are threats to this unique landscape.

Logging, charcoal production, hunting and slash-and-burn agriculture endanger Togo-Volta's rainforest. **Recognizing these threats, Rainforest** Trust and partner Herp Conservation Ghana worked together to protect the area. They helped the Ghanaian government start the process of designating 847 acres as a refuge.

The Onepone Endangered Species Refuge became reality in 2018. Along with the Critically Endangered Togo Slipperv Frog and the Endangered **Ukami Reed Frog and Ivory Coast** 

Frog, the reserve protects Critically Endangered Hooded Vultures, Vulnerable Black-bellied and Whitebellied Pangolins and a plethora of amphibian and butterfly species.

The Togo Slippery Frog population in particular has suffered from poaching Hunting frogs is a favorite youth pastime, encouraged by some older community members who believe eating the frog's meat can ward off disease. But conservation education offered through this project is helping reduce the hunting of endangered species.

The refuge is named for the traditional name of the area's local people. Three villages are nearby, all integral in the official designation of the refuge. A community-based wildlife management plan protects the land. But the project is also improving the community's way of life. Instead of having to wash in the river, people now have access to clean water through solar-powered wells. And instead



of spending time hauling water to their villages, they can invest more energy in sustainable livelihoods. Communities are better off and the river water is clean for amphibians to thrive.

"This new refuge is wonderful news for the Critically Endangered Togo Slippery Frog as well as many other threatened endemic species," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "We are honored to have had such great support from the local communities to preserve this biodiverse region, which was previously at risk from deforestation."









## **DOUALA-**EDEA





But last year, the Cameroonian government expanded the Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve by 375,304 acres. This new protection resulted from a multi-year partnership between **Rainforest Trust and Cameroon** Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS). The expansion also came with a title change when the government upgraded the reserve to a national park. The park is now 649,726 acres -

almost the size of Yosemite National Park.

**ACRES** 

375,304

Douala-Edea is the first marine and terrestrial national park in Cameroon. It covers a variety of mangrove, riverine, wetland and marine habitats in a vast landscape. With that habitat diversity comes an impressive level of biodiversity. But earlier protections didn't consider this region's species and habitat diversity. In fact, conservationists had identified these habitats as one of Central Africa's most important unprotected ecosystems.

"This Key Biodiversity Area was at grave risk from growing pressure to deforest and destroy its mega-diverse rainforests," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "Designating this huge National Park is a vital step towards permanent protection of Cameroon's natural resources."

The national park is home to many impressive micro-ecosystems. Coastal







**SAVED** 133,296,844



## STORED 10,270,743 mT

beaches see Endangered Green **Turtles and Vulnerable Leatherback** and Olive Ridley turtles. The forest is home to primates such as Endangered **Chimpanzees and Vulnerable Gabon** Black Colobus monkeys. Other mammals include Vulnerable African Manatees and a few forest antelope species. The park's rivers and wetlands are important stopover sites for many migratory bird species.

"There is no doubt this major conservation breakthrough could not have been achieved without resolute engagement and financial support from Rainforest Trust," said the National Coordinator of CWCS, Dr. Gordon Ajonina. "We are proud to say Rainforest Trust funding helped speedily move the gazettement process forward, including improvements in infrastructure, purchasing equipment for game rangers and motorcycles and engine boats for marine patrols."

## SAVE THE RAINFOREST FOR PRIMATES







Australia



## OKU RESERVE





**ACRES** 

342,053



of the Congo

**THE DEMOCRATIC** Republic of the Congo (DRC) has the largest extent of tropical rainforests in Africa. The region is a mosaic of rivers, open savannas and lush forests home to 11,000 plant species.

But most of the Congo's rainforests are unprotected. So animals like the Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorilla - along with Endangered species like the Chimpanzee, Okapi and Grey Parrot - are under constant threat. Logging, agriculture, mining and the pet and bushmeat trade put the rainforest's biodiversity at risk.

Rainforest Trust recognized these threats and partnered with Réserve des Gorilles de Punia and Wildlife **Conservation Society DRC to** safeguard habitat in the Oku forests. In December, these organizations helped designate three community forest concessions to buffer the future Oku Wildlife Reserve. Those three areas protected a total of 342,053 acres of habitat. A fundamental

aspect of Rainforest Trust's mission is working with indigenous and local communities. In Oku, the local population consists of the Bantu indigenous peoples with ancestral ties to the forests. Each clan will manage an area of forest and self-establish sustainability practices.

Rainforest Trust knows that those living closest to protected areas have the most to gain - and lose - in managing forest resources.

"Our experience tells us that local buy-in and involvement at the community level are critical if land is to be permanently protected," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "Caring for communities is fundamental to our approach, and these forest concessions around Oku Wildlife Reserve are a great example of this."

These forest concessions, along with the future Oku Wildlife Reserve, will protect over 1 million acres of habitat







**SAVED** 232,657,420



## **CO2 EQ. STORED** 79,180,467 mT

for a diversity of species. Rainforest Trust is especially concerned with safeguarding space for the Grauer's Gorilla. Fewer than 3,800 Grauer's Gorillas remain in the wild. But some researchers estimate that 30 percent of this subspecies population lives in Oku. Hence, protecting this habitat has incredible potential for this imperiled great ape.





THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION CONTAINS SOME OF OUR MOST UNIQUE PROJECTS.

THAT GOES FOR BOTH GEOGRAPHY AND WILDLIFE WE'VE HAD PROJECTS RANGING FROM THE HIMALAYAS TO ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, FOCUSED ON EVERYTHING FROM TIGERS TO SPIDERS.

BUT THE GOAL – PROTECTING THE WORLD'S MOST THREATENED SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS – IS ALWAYS THE SAME.

WITH EVERY PROJECT, WE WORK TOGETHER WITH OUR LOCAL PARTNERS TO FIND THE BEST SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS FOR HUMANS AND WILDLIFE.

SOMETIMES THAT MEANS SETTING ASIDE A SMALL PATCH OF LAND FOR A TURTLE IN THE PHILIPPINES. SOMETIMES THAT MEANS CREATING AN ENTIRELY NEW STATE PARK IN MALAYSIA.

BUT OUR PROJECTS ALWAYS LEAD TO CONSERVATION, IN PERPETUITY, FOR THESE INCREDIBLE LANDSCAPES.



## KOSHI **TAPPU**



Nepal



40

**ACRES** 

AS YOU HEAD SOUTH from the tallest peaks in the world, the Himalayas, you'll reach lush montane forests. Go even further south, and you'll reach the vast plains of Nepal's southern region. There, at the altitudinal start of the country's diverse landscape and ecology, lies the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve.

Asia & Pacific

The reserve comprises over 42,000 acres of wetland, grassland and forest habitat. But a strip of land between the reserve and a buffer zone community was under threat, so in 2018, Rainforest Trust, local partner KTK-BELT and International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC) purchased five properties totaling 40 acres next to Koshi Tappu. This land safeguards vital and, until now, unprotected habitat. It also sets up the potential of continued reserve expansion.

Koshi Tappu is Nepal's first and one of its largest Ramsar sites, denoting wetlands of global importance.

With 485 recorded bird species, it's one of South Asia's most important water bird reserves. The area is also home to many threatened species, including three Critically Endangered vultures. The Critically Endangered **Red-crowned Roofed Turtle and Bengal** Florican also live in the reserve.

These recent purchases secure forest habitat critical for vulture nesting. Over the past 20 years, forest cover in Koshi Tappu has declined by 80 percent. Protecting the remaining forest is vital to stabilize the vulture populations.

These properties, now called the Paschim Kushana Bird Sanctuary, along the southeast border of Koshi Tappu, are important for community outreach. The communities to the reserve's south have engaged little with conservation efforts. While unfortunate, this stems from a history of discrimination. Hence, the local partner has started educating communities on conservation's



importance to the region. The partner is providing these communities information on potential economic benefits from conservation. Conservation for both vultures and the Ganges River Dolphin in the region could open the possibility of ecotourism.

"Rainforest Trust is proud to partner with KTK-BELT and ICFC to expand the spectacular Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "This additional habitat protection helps many endangered wildlife species, like the Ganges River Dolphin and the Red-crowned Roofed Turtle."

This reserve expansion provides increased defenses against invasive weeds, wildlife trapping and overfishing. Hence, by gaining these strategic sites, this project helped further protect this incredible ecosystem in a number of ways.



## **KENYIR STATE PARK**





**ACRES** 

74,131

**THE LAST MAJOR STAND of lowland** dipterocarp forest on the Malay Peninsula is over 130 million years old. Tall tropical trees create a canopied landscape and rich understory that hold some of the highest levels of biodiversity in Asia. But those powerful trees are also what attracts logging and other extractive industries to the State of Terengganu on the peninsula's eastern edge.

Terengganu held one of the last unprotected rainforests in mainland Southeast Asia. Rainforest Trust, working with local partner organization Rimba and Panthera,



helped the Terengannu government designate 74,131 acres as a park. Before this designation, those acres were slated for logging.

The Kenyir State Park is the first ever state park in Terengganu and the first new state park in peninsular Malavsia since 2007. But the park is only phase one of a much larger conservation project. That project aims to designate the area as a globally important Tiger Conservation Landscape and critical wildlife corridor.

"Rainforest Trust is thrilled that the Terengganu State Government is taking action to overturn a logging concession and strengthen protection of imperiled rainforests," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "The new park provides an unparalleled opportunity to safeguard habitat for one of the planet's most awe-inspiring predators - the Malayan Tiger - and protects a vital watershed for Malavsians."

The Critically Endangered Malayan











STORED 12,299,629 mT

Tiger is a subspecies that lives only on the Malay Peninsula and in the southern tip of Thailand. They face tremendous pressure from habitat loss and poaching for wildlife trafficking. Estimates in 2018 place their numbers in Malaysia at fewer than 250 individuals. But camera trap surveys reveal a sizable number of Malayan Tigers living within Kenyir State Park. This made the park a priority spot for tiger conservation.

Along with a population of Malayan Tigers, the new park protects Critically **Endangered Sunda Pangolins and** Endangered Asian Elephants, two other species in decline due to poaching. Other Endangered species - like the Malay Tapir, Dhole and White-handed Gibbon – can also find refuge. In addition, scientists have spotted over 290 bird species in the area. This biodiversity makes Kenvir State Park one of Southeast Asia's most important protected areas.

**THE CARBON WE SECURED** LAST YEAR WAS EQUAL **TO THE YEARLY AVERAGE EMISSIONS OF 40.1** MILLION CARS IN THE **UNITED STATES** —

**ALMOST TWICE AS MANY** CARS AS IN CALIFORNIA.

## 189,326,040 mT

OF CARBON STORED IN CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENT



## PALAWAN FOREST TURTLE



PALAWAN, ONE OF THE thousands of islands in the Philippines, is world-renowned for its wildlife. From pangolins to hornbills, the often endemic (and often threatened) species of Palawan are as diverse as their habitats. Hidden in swamps and forests among it all is the Palawan Forest Turtle.

The Critically Endangered Palawan Forest Turtle is among the 25 most threatened turtle species in the world. The species is endemic to Palawan but until a few years ago, no one knew exactly where it lived.

This home range discovery spurred a collecting frenzy to supply illegal wildlife markets. Palawan Forest Turtles are sought after as pets, and a lack of adequate protection has escalated illegal harvesting. In addition, expanding rice cultivation in the surrounding communities has decimated the turtle's forest habitat. Because of these threats, the species was under extreme pressure.

But in 2017, the government of Mendoza, a local town, donated over 2.000 acres as a protected watershed. This came as a result of Rainforest Trust's project with the Katala Foundation Inc., its local partner in the Philippines. Last year, the project added eight more acres as a land purchase to create the Palawan Forest **Turtle Reserve.** 

"Creating the Palawan Forest Turtle Reserve is one of the most important steps yet for the turtle's survival," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "Without it, this imperiled species may not have stood a chance."

The Palawan Forest Turtle is an aquatic species with specific habitat requirements. It prefers cool streams with dense riverine vegetation and soft river bottoms and banks. With such particular needs, protecting any remaining habitat becomes especially important.





The area is also home to the Endangered Palawan Horned Frog and Philippine Pangolin as well as Vulnerable species ranging from the Griffin's Keel-scaled Tree Skink to the Asian Small-clawed Otter.

Katala Foundation Inc. is coordinating lectures, community gatherings and surveys to raise conservation awareness in the local communities. As a result, the communities are now supporting the project and are part of the conservation process.

In the coming months and years, Rainforest Trust and Katala Foundation Inc. will complete the purchase of more land plots to continue growing the reserve. The project is also working on expanding the protected watershed next door and upgrade it to a Critical Habitat.

## SAVE THE RAINFOREST FOR REPTILES







## NAKANACAGI **CAVE RESERVE**





**ACRES** 

20.82

**ISLANDS IN THE** South Pacific are home to some of the most geographically restricted species. One stark case of that phenomenon is the Endangered Fijian Free-tailed Bat. About 95% of the entire species lives and breeds in one cave system on Vanua Levu island.

But the Fijian Free-tailed Bat population has been dropping in recent years, due in part to local hunting. So Rainforest Trust and its local partner, the National Trust of Fiji, together with Bat Conservation International, teamed up to purchase the cave and surrounding habitat. In 2018, the project acquired over 20 acres and helped secure the bat's future. The new Nakanacagi Cave Reserve was officially dedicated with a large, local ceremony in July.

Local communities used to hunt Fijian Free-tailed Bats for food. But recent conservation outreach has helped curb bat consumption. Yet, without formal protection, hunting could

resume. The local partner is working to create a consensus amongst the local communities on the importance of conservation, and this reserve's creation is a vital part of this plan.

Erosion and deforestation also threaten this habitat. Logging and burning have degraded some areas of the native rainforest. This makes it more susceptible to damage from the extreme winds of tropical cyclones.

"The overall goal of this project is to establish sustainable partnerships that result in the long-term protection of the cave and the unique biodiversity of this area. Around 95 percent of the global population of Fijian Free-tailed Bats rely on this one site and initial biodiversity assessments recorded at least 20 endemic plants surrounding the cave," said Craig Powell, Chair of the National Trust of Fiji.

Official launch celebrations included a traditional dedication ceremony with prayers, songs, food and dancing. The





2



bat species itself actually inspired one of the dances. The District Chief and other local community leaders pledged further cave protection to participants, who included representatives from conservation groups and community members.

Over the next five years, the reserve will be formalized under the Fiji **Forestry Department's Reserve** Demarcation Policy. The project will put a management plan in place, and local conservation rangers will ensure continued protection. This project also aims to add another 34 acres near the cave entrance, which will protect the entire cave system and surrounding habitat.



OUR CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE TROPICS ARE THE CRUX OF EVERYTHING OUR STAFF WORK ON EVERY DAY.

BUT THIS WORK CAN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT OUR CLOSER-TO-HOME INITIATIVES.

FROM OUR CAMPUS IN VIRGINIA IN 2018, WE DEVELOPED AND PUT TOGETHER EVENTS AND PROGRAMS RANGING FROM CONSERVATION SCIENCE TRAININGS TO INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING EVENTS.

AND AS WE BUILT OUR OWN CAPACITY TO SUCCEED RIGHT HERE AT HOME, WE WITNESSED THOSE EFFORTS TRANSLATE INTO ACTUAL CHANGE FOR ECOSYSTEMS FAR AWAY.



## **SPECIES LEGACY** AUCTION

**RAINFOREST TRUST HELD** the largest species naming auction in history in honor of the organization's 30th anniversary on December 8, 2018. Donors had the opportunity to name 12 new-to-science species and protect each species' habitat in perpetuity. In total, the auction raised \$182,500 for conservation action.

The 12 species featured were first identified in Latin American reserves created by Rainforest Trust and its local partners. Proceeds from the auction went to the protected areas where researchers discovered these species.

The names of four frogs, four orchids, a forest mouse, a trap-jaw ant, a salamander and a caecilian (legless

amphibian) were on the auction block. It was the unusual worm-like caecilian that garnered the largest bid of \$22,000 to protect its home in Panama.

Freeman's of Philadelphia, the oldest auction house in the U.S., sponsored the event. Their chairman, Alasdair Nichol, served as auctioneer. The evening was also sponsored by **Endangered Species Chocolate**, a Chairman-level member of Rainforest Trust's Conservation Circle and Invaluable.com, an auction e-commerce site. The event took place at Clyde's of Gallery Place in Washington, DC, made possible by Rainforest Trust board member and restaurant owner Sally Davidson.











**WE WORKED ON BOTH CREATING NEW RESERVES TO PROTECT UNPROTECTED FORESTS & EXPANDING EXISTING RESERVES TO BUILD ON PAST ACHIEVEMENTS.** 



## PARTNER RETREAT

**THIS PAST JUNE, Rainforest Trust** hosted its second annual Partner Retreat at its Virginia headquarters. The retreat hosted representatives from 11 in-country partner organizations. During the week, participants took part in workshops, presentations and conversations to further conservation goals and strategies.

Rainforest Trust staff and other visiting conservation professionals presented on topics ranging from mapping software to strategic planning to communications. In addition, representatives presented to both Rainforest Trust staff and other participants on their projects. Many participants mentioned that hearing about similar successes and difficulties from around the world was one of the most inspiring parts of the week.



During the retreat, Rainforest Trust also officially launched its new Fellows and Guardians Programs. These programs support and expand the professional capacity of on-theground conservationists and guards working with partner organizations. In the weeks and months afterwards, the program took off, led by the organizations represented at the retreat.

The annual Partner Retreat continues to be a great way to collaborate, expand conversations and plan for the future. This year, Rainforest Trust will hold its third retreat, hosting many of the new enrollees in the Fellows Program.







## CONSERVATION **FELLOWS &** GUARDIANS



**RAINFOREST TRUST** purchases and protects threatened tropical forests through innovative in-country partnerships. To achieve this, the organization supports hundreds

## **BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:**

- **1. ENHANCED PROJECT MANAGEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY.**
- 2. ENHANCED TOOLS FOR **MOTIVATING & REWARDING STAFF.**
- **3. ASSISTANCE WITH PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CONSERVATION LEADERS.**
- DEMONSTRABLE **COLLABORATION & STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.**

of people at the ground level. Last year, the organization launched its **Conservation Fellows and Conservation Guardians Programs. The new** initiatives honors the unsung heroes of conservation at our project sites.

Rainforest Trust is now better able to share knowledge with these conservation professionals. But these conservationists can also share their experiences with each other. These programs can bring Fellows' and Guardians' stories to a broader audience and may even inspire others to pursue a career in conservation.

"This is our most important initiative since the SAVES Challenge," said Rainforest Trust CEO Paul Salaman. "Fellows and Guardians represent our continuing efforts to recognize and support our partner conservationists."

**Conservation Fellows are managers** and coordinators within Rainforest Trust's partner organizations. They may be scientists or community

organizers or educators. But all perform the essential on-the-ground work of creating and maintaining protected areas.

**Conservation Guardians are rangers** on the front lines of protecting the rainforest. They are responsible for safeguarding irreplaceable biodiversity and reserve stability.

Rainforest Trust's model is successful because of the dedicated individuals at our project sites. The Fellows and Guardians Programs involve these conservationists in a global network of like-minded professionals while honoring their work to protect our planet.





## **CONSERVATION FELLOW HIGHLIGHT, GANGA LIMBU**



## **KTK BELT, NEPAL**

Ganga Limbu is the first youth Fellow of Rainforest Trust partner KTK-BELT and works on participatory mapping, social research and environmental education. She was born into a large family in the Mukten village of Bhedetar in Nepal. Ganga has received funding from the Phulmaya Foundation and, most recently, received a scholarship for her Bachelor's degree. She's currently living in Satisale village, Yangshila. Along with doing research in the existing education curriculum, Ganga is interested in learning about software, including ArcGIS, AutoCAD and Sketchup.

## **CONSERVATION GUARDIAN HIGHLIGHT, SAID ABDULLAHI BUDHUL**



## **HIROLA CONSERVATION PROGRAMME, KENYA**

Said Budhul has involved himself in conservation for as long as he can remember. Before working in conservation full-time, Said would disseminate wildlife and poacher information for the Kenya Wildlife Service at their field base in the Arawale National Reserve. This included information on the Hirola, a Critically Endangered antelope. Said gained his knowledge of the Hirola by herding his livestock in the animal's range. After the Hirola Conservation Programme created the Bura East Conservancy in 2017, they brought Said onboard to manage their anti-poaching team. His wealth of field knowledge has lead to his team collecting close to 200 snares since the team was formed



## SAVE THE RAINFOREST FOR LIVELIHOODS

## PHILANTHROPY NEWS

## **CORPORATE DONORS, CONSERVATION CIRCLE**



## **CONSERVATION HEROES & LEGACY, CONSERVATION ACTION FUND**



RAINFOREST TRUST relies upon the generosity of friends, especially Conservation Heroes. Conservation Heroes come from around the world and give monthly to the Conservation Action Fund in support of the organization's work. Their dedication enables Rainforest Trust to work on behalf of both charismatic and lesser known species, all of whom need protection.



IN 2018, corporations and businesses from around the world donated over \$1 million to Rainforest Trust. This includes general contributions from businesses and annual corporate donors in the Conservation Circle members program. In fact, last year was the first full year of the Conservation Circle program and 50 businesses became members.

Supporting Rainforest Trust's mission allows companies to share their values and social responsibility efforts with their customers and stakeholders. Many businesses offer matching gifts, doubling the impact of their employees' donations. They also leverage their resources with those of other companies to support Rainforest Trust's work with in-kind contributions of products, services and expertise. Last year was the third year Rainforest Trust was one of Endangered Species Chocolate's GiveBack partners. In addition to financial and product contributions, the company also participated in Rainforest Trust's 30th Anniversary and Species Legacy Auction. They purchased the naming rights to a newly discovered frog in Colombia, now known as *Prismantis chocolatebari*.

The companies that support Rainforest Trust are as diverse as the world in which we live. Corporate donors include companies that represent coffee and tea, apparel, travel, construction and realty, zoos and art.

We are especially grateful to those who leave a gift to Rainforest Trust in their estates. These gifts are a lasting legacy to your memory, desire and passion to protect the rainforest for species, communities and our planet. Rainforest Trust is thankful to the following estates for their support in 2018: Leo J. and Rosemary Havilan, Arthur Peter Osborne and Beverly S. Ridgely.



## **BOARD &** LEADERSHIP

## **SENIOR STAFF**

DR. PAUL SALAMAN **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** 

DR. ROBERT RIDGELY PRESIDENT

ANGELA YANG CHIEF CONSERVATION OFFICER

LESLIE VANSANT **CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER** 

MARC FORD **CHIEF OUTREACH OFFICER** 

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MARK GRUIN **SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS** 



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**COUNCIL MEMBERS** 

DR. BRUCE BEEHLER





**PROTECTING 1.9 MILLION ACRES LAST YEAR WASN'T OUR ONLY ACHIEVEMENT.** 

**WE ALSO LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR MORE CONSERVATION** SUCCESSES IN THE YEARS TO COME.



## FINANCIALS

IN 2018, OUR DONATIONS TOTALED OVER \$48,8 MILLION

> FOUNDATIONS & PARTNERS - \$9,226,517 CORPORATE - \$1,011,518 **OTHER - \$1,045,962 INDIVIDUALS - \$37,748,159**

<u>\$14,554,051</u> TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2018

\*PRELIMINARY PRE-AUDIT FIGURES

\$48,884,242

TOTAL INCOME 2018

ADMINISTRATION - \$<u>143,146</u> **FUNDRAISING - \$1,059,162** 

RAINFOREST TRUST THANKS ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WHO COVERED THE MAJORITY OF ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDRAISING COSTS IN 2018.

## CONSERVATION **PROGRAMS COMPRISED** 92% OF OUR EXPENSES.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS - \$13,351,743

**CONSERVATION ISN'T EASY. NOR IS IT WITHOUT** PITFALLS, ROADBLOCKS OR SETBACKS.

BUT IF WE'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN 2018, IT'S THAT CONSERVATION IS WORTH IT.

IT'S WORTH EVERY LONG NIGHT, EVERY MUDDY BOOT AND EVERY MOSQUITO BITE. WHEN YOU SPOT A **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PARROT THRIVING IN** A PROTECTED AREA, OR WITNESS A COMMUNITY **GROWING THEIR ECONOMY BY PROMOTING** SUSTAINABILITY, OR DOCUMENT A NEW BIRTH FROM A THREATENED MONKEY SPECIES, YOU KNOW CONSERVATION IS WORTH IT.

ALL OF IT.

2019 WON'T BE ANY EASIER. **BUT IT'LL DEFINITELY BE JUST AS REWARDING.** 















## **PROTECTING RAINFORESTS IS THE BEST SOLUTION TO SAVE OUR PLANET!**

## LAST YEAR, WE SAVED AN ACRE OF **CRITICAL RAINFOREST EVERY 16 SECONDS.**

The destruction of the world's rainforest, threatening species and humanity, happens every day. For 30 years, Rainforest Trust has worked tirelessly to stop deforestation, save species, care for communities and protect our planet.

The CONSERVATION ACTION FUND was

established to support our important conservation work across the tropics. Underpinned by the strength of your support, Rainforest Trust is able to work strategically, selecting projects based on urgency and not simply the presence of charismatic species.



WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY. MAKE A GIFT TO THE CONSERVATION ACTION FUND.

## RAINFOREST TRUST<sup>®</sup>







## RAINFOREST TRUST<sup>®</sup>

## www.RainforestTrust.org

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