

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Rainforest Trust

February 25-26-27, 2015

El Dorado Nature Reserve, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia

Present: John Mitchell (Chair), Dr. Wayt Thomas (Secretary), Edith McBean, Robert Giles, Leslie Danoff & Brett Byers
Absent: Sally Davidson (Treasurer), Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, Melissa Trotter, Jeffrey Zack & Sommer Chatwin
Staff present: Dr. Robert Ridgely (President), Paul Salaman (CEO), & Malissa Cadwallader (COO)
Guests present: Eric Veach

1. Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from October 22, 2014, and December 15, 2014.

2. Institutional overview of 2014

The CEO presented overall progress for Rainforest Trust in 2014. With our small but dedicated team, 2014 was the third consecutive year of tremendous growth and accomplishments. A total of \$5,835,423 was raised compared to \$4,605,490 in 2013, representing an increase of \$1.2 million to support a significant increase in the number and scope of projects, especially across Africa and Asia.

A total of 77,570 acres were protected at 15 sites in 2014. Furthermore, we have over 4.6 million acres pending declaration in the first half of 2015 (that were funded in 2014). Additionally last year, we continued to increase our partnerships across the tropics and with US non-profits, such as Global Wildlife Conservation, Amphibian Survival Alliance, Panthera Inc., WCS, etc.

The CEO thanked all board members, staff, and supporters for their incredible commitment to the mission of Rainforest Trust and for their generous contributions throughout the year that helped to make 2014 our most successful year to date.

For the year ahead in 2015, we look forward to expanding further the organization's urgent efforts to swiftly protect additional tropical land and habitats for endangered species. The organization's Ark Initiative continues to identify new partners and projects in need of support. We aim to increase donations by 37% in 2015 to fund these projects – setting a goal of almost \$8 million. With our excellent staff, supporters and Board Members, we are confident that 2015 will be our best year to date for conservation.

2a. New Office proposed:

International House, 7078 Airlie Road, Warrenton, VA 20187 is located in a natural campus with lake frontage, wild meadows and forest to create an idyllic campus setting. The property is set within the larger Airlie Conference Center; since 1956, Airlie has been welcoming global leaders, heads of state, and diplomats who have convened there for conferences and programs dedicated to social progress, education, environmental research, and public health. Airlie is a venue where individuals and organizations can exchange ideas in a distraction-free,

neutral environment amid the natural beauty of Virginia's Piedmont region. LIFE magazine heralded Airlie as "*an island of thought.*"

Airlie has a distinguished history with many landmark achievements including Earth Day (which was planned and launched from International House in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson); Martin Luther King organized the March on Washington in 1967 here at Airlie; and the Anglo Irish Agreement establishing peace in Northern Ireland was signed here in 1985. International House had major renovations in 2011 and is now leased by Rainforest Trust who is seeking a consortium of like-minded international conservation groups to establish a center for excellence in biodiversity conservation.

The Board unanimously approved Rainforest Trust's primary lease of a new office at Airlie.

2b. Presentation of Communications report

Rainforest Trust Communications is responsible for building, managing and protecting the organization's brand and public image in order to raise public awareness. We do this through creative, engaging, cost-effective, timely and integrated communications across multiple platforms and channels, including the web, traditional media, social media, email marketing and advertising.

In 2014, Rainforest Trust Communications showed fantastic progress on raising our profile on social media, including an increase of 303% in Facebook "likes" and 1,162% in Twitter followers. Furthermore, web sessions are up by 55% and page views by 75%. Media coverage has increased by 95% while our electronic mailing list has grown by 61%.

Additional plans for 2015 will target improving outreach efforts by launching a new website with a Rainforest Trust blog section, significantly increasing followers on social media, raising press releases to place at least 60 articles, and launching a campaign with a celebrity spokesperson.

2c. Presentation of Development report

For the first time in the 25-year history of the organization, Rainforest Trust's income soared above \$4 million in 2013 and now above \$5 million in 2014. Thanks to strong efforts by all Rainforest Trust staff, board members, and supporters, revenue in 2014 surpassed the fundraising goal of \$4.8 million by 25%. Additionally, we raised \$652,400 from foundations and organizations whose funds were given directly to our partners. In total, these gifts bring our 2014 funds raised to \$6,425,316.

To support Rainforest Trust's conservation initiative of saving 20 million acres by 2020, our fundraising goal must exceed \$50 million over the next 6 years. Tremendous opportunities exist for growth within the current supporter network as well as in attracting new donors via our effective conservation strategy, education and public awareness campaigns, news and media outreach, as well as our top 4-star Charity Navigator efficiency rating.

In 2015, we are looking to increase annual income by 31% to nearly \$8 million for our growing conservation programs. To carry out this objective, we plan to grow foundation grants and corporate gifts while focusing on growth of the recurring gifts program as well as the planned giving program.

2d. Presentation of Conservation report

The following 77,570 acres were protected by Rainforest Trust in 2014 thanks to our donors and partners. This table includes a record number of acres purchased as well as five new Protected Areas:

Location	Country	Partner	Protected acres
Sierra Caral Amphibian Reserve	Guatemala	FUNDAECO	41,000
El Paujil Bird Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	494
*Serranía de Perijá Nature Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	1,850
El Dorado Bird Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	5
Río Canandé Reserve	Ecuador	Jocotoco	1,222
Las Tangaras Bird Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	1,772

Serra Bonita Reserve	Brazil	Instituto Uiraçu	986
Guapiaçu Ecological Reserve	Brazil	REGUA	593
Río Ayampe Reserve	Ecuador	Jocotoco	65
*Dracula Orchid Reserve	Ecuador	EcoMinga	229
*Jofre Velho RPPN	Brazil	Panthera Brasil	24,640
*Orangutan Corridor	Borneo	HUTAN	137
Menanggul River purchase	Borneo	HUTAN	3.5
*El Jaguar Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	4,470
Yunguilla Reserve (2015)	Ecuador	Jocotoco	104
TOTAL			77,570 acres

*Newly created reserves

3. Project Resolutions for 2015

3a. Proposed New Conservation Projects Reviewed by the Board

Eight proposals for new projects were discussed by the Board:

Proposal 1: Bukit Tiga Puluh (BTP) Ecosystem, Sumatra

The Board unanimously approved support for the proposed project to protect 200,396 acres.

Proposal 2: Southern Cardamom Rainforest, Cambodia

The Board approved support for the proposed project in Cambodia to protect 1,095,008 acres.

Proposal 3: Gola Forest National Park in Liberia

The Board unanimously approved the proposed project in Liberia to protect 219,609 acres.

Proposal 4: Central Range Amphibian Preserve, Panama

The Board unanimously approved the proposed Protected Area in Panama to preserve 10,000 acres.

Proposal 5: San Isidro: A New Reserve in the Cuchumatanes Mountains, Guatemala

The Board unanimously approved the proposed Protected Area in Guatemala to save 2,000 acres.

Proposal 6: Expanding Dracula Orchid Reserve

The Board unanimously approved the proposed Protected Area in Ecuador to save 561 acres.

Proposal 7: Carangola Basin for Protection of Mesoclemmys hogei in Brazil

The Board unanimously approved the proposed Protected Area to safeguard 311 acres.

Proposal 8: South Africa

The Board unanimously approved the proposed project in South Africa to protect 100 acres.

4. Committee Matters

4a. Finance and Audit Committee Report

The minutes of the committee meeting held from 6.30-7.45 PM on 24 February 2014 at El Dorado Nature Reserve in Colombia by Sally Davidson (Chair), Robert Giles, Paul Salaman, & Patricia Munoz were shared with the Board.

2015 Budget Notes:

- The 2015 budget was reviewed, detailing more information on expenditure both across the various departments and in a quarterly breakdown to better track expenses.

- Project Grants – projecting an overall increase of 37% to last year’s budget and 37% to last year’s actuals, based on projected increase to restricted income.

The Board unanimously approved the proposed 2015 budget for Rainforest Trust.

4b. Investment Committee Matters

The 2014 Investment Committee Report was shared with, and discussed by, the board.

The Rainforest Legacy Fund (aka Rainforest Trust Sustainability Fund, referred to here as the “Fund”) was established largely via a donation of mutual fund investments worth \$496,743 on April 30, 2014 with \$90,000 of contributions from other supporters on that date, and an additional \$60,000 of contributions from other supporters in November 2014.

5. Bylaws revisions

The Board discussed at length the changing governance needs of Rainforest Trust, including the growth and potential future of the organization, the need for additional Board and other assistance, and multiple possible governance changes to best serve the goals, purposes and needs of Rainforest Trust. As part of this discussion, the Board reviewed and discussed various recommendations and other materials provided by the Governance committee and asked questions of the Governance Committee. After substantial consideration of the proposals of the Governance Committee, modifications thereof and other options, the Board unanimously adopted the new governance provisions detailed below:

1. The Articles of Incorporation of Rainforest Trust are hereby amended to change the legal name of the corporation to Rainforest Trust (from World Parks Endowment, Inc., doing business as Rainforest Trust).
2. The By-Laws of Rainforest Trust are hereby amended and restated as shown below.
3. The Board of Director Member Selection Goals, Criteria and Processes shown were adopted.
4. An Advisory Council shall be formed as specified in the Advisory Council Selection and Function provisions, which are hereby adopted.
5. As per the Amended and Restated By-Laws, the board shall be divided into three classes, each consisting of five board positions (including vacancies). The current terms of all board members will end as of the close of business of this board meeting, and the new board terms under the classified board mechanism will then begin.

Board of Director Member Selection Goals, Criteria and Processes

Introduction

Rainforest Trust has positioned itself to become a major global conservation charity. Some of the elements of this positioning include: celebrating its 25th anniversary; changing its name to reflect its focus on the most critical ecosystems on the planet; achieving record receipts in both 2013 and 2014 of about \$5 million per year; saving nearly 8 million acres; substantial growth in supporters and amount of public awareness; building a global alliance of partners to develop, implement and manage conservation projects; setting a goal to save 20 million acres by the year 2020; and building an organization with detailed plans to achieve its goals. As part of this effort, it is appropriate that Rainforest Trust adopt the following Board of Director member selection goals, criteria and processes.

Selection Goals and Criteria

New and continuing directors will be selected, starting after the election of incumbent directors to a term in February 2015, to be consistent with the goal of Rainforest Trust becoming a major global conservation charity. All directors will be expected to make substantial contributions to the growth and development of Rainforest Trust and to have a passionate and central devotion to, and focus on, preservation of rainforest ecosystems. Re-election to the Board shall be earned through ongoing substantial contributions to the growth and development of Rainforest Trust.

Selection of new candidates for membership to the Board of Directors shall be primarily focused within these categories (but accounting for the composition of the board at that time to provide appropriate balance and diversity):

1. Public figures, celebrities, scientists and conservationists with a strong connection to Rainforest Trust's work,
2. Leaders with substantial success in growing enterprises from a small scale to a large size or managing large enterprises (including those with expertise in finance),
3. Those able and willing to provide substantial financial support to Rainforest Trust, including business persons, substantial donors, and those able to raise substantial donations, and
4. Those possessing the ability and commitment to substantially increase public awareness of Rainforest Trust and the importance of its work.

Selection Process

At least one week prior to a non-incumbent candidate for board membership being elected to the board of directors, at least one current director, the Chairperson or the Chief Executive Officer shall nominate such candidate for consideration by taking all of the following actions:

1. Sending written notice of such nomination to all other board members, the President and the Chief Executive Officer,
2. Providing a written description of the qualifications of such candidate (including a description of how such candidate is suitable in light of the Selection Goals and Criteria set forth above and including a resume or the equivalent) to all other members of the board, the President and the Chief Executive Officer,
3. Providing the opportunity for the Chairperson, the Chief Executive Officer and at least one other board member to interview (in person or by phone) the candidate and provide details of the candidate's interest in joining the board and commitment to the Selection Goals and Criteria set forth above, including how the candidate intends to meet the requirements of such Selection Goals and Criteria set forth above.

A majority of the Board of Directors may waive some or all of the requirements set forth above in the case of candidates with great public prominence whereby such a process would be expected to dissuade such a candidate from standing for election to the Board and where the public prominence of such candidate permits examination of the qualifications of the candidate from publicly available sources.

Immediate family members of directors shall be excluded from consideration for the Board.

The Board may establish a Nominating Committee, consisting of three to five members. If it is established, the Nominating Committee shall review, consider, interview and collect information about candidates to the Board and make recommendations to the Board as to which candidates should be considered by the Board for nomination to the Board, and the notices specified above in Selection Process items 1 to 3 shall be provided to the Nominating Committee rather than the parties specified above, provided that the Nominating Committee will seek the input and participation of the Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer and the President in such process. The Nominating Committee shall provide these materials and their recommendations to each Board member, the Chief Executive Officer and the President at least one week prior to consideration of such board member at a Board meeting.

The Board reserves the right to consider Board nominations without adherence to the procedures set forth above.

Re-election of Incumbent Board Members

Prior to re-consideration of an incumbent Board member for re-election to the Board, such Board member shall provide a written self-evaluation to the Chairperson and discuss past accomplishments and future goals with the Chairperson. This written self-evaluation shall address board meeting attendance (whether in person or by teleconference), board meeting contributions, board committee contributions, as well as contributions beyond direct board activities, including: aggregate amount of donations given to Rainforest Trust, aggregate amount of donations secured from third parties, aggregate amounts of in-kind donations secured for Rainforest Trust, joint efforts on projects with Rainforest Trust staff and other board members (whether fundraising, publicity, conservation, etc.), and independent efforts and accomplishments in support of Rainforest Trust and its mission.

Advisory Council Selection and Function

Members of the Advisory Council will be chosen for expertise benefitting Rainforest Trust, including in the areas of science, conservation, finance and investing, fundraising, marketing and communications, law and other matters that the Board determines to be useful to Rainforest Trust. Members of the Advisory Committee shall also be chosen based on their willingness to support and advise Rainforest Trust on issues related to their respective areas of expertise.

6. Election of Board and Officers

The Board unanimously re-elected John Mitchell, Sally Davidson, Wayt Thomas, Robert Giles, Leslie Danoff, Thomas Lovejoy, Edith McBean, Jeffrey Zack, Brett Byers, & Sommer Chatwin.

The Board unanimously appointed as Officers:

Chair: John Mitchell

Vice-Chair: Leslie Danoff

Treasurer: Sally Davidson

Secretary: Wayt Thomas

The Board unanimously elected Eric Veach to the board and assigned the following classes to Board members.

Class I: Brett Byers, Sommer Chatwin, Robert Giles, Jeff Zack, and one vacancy

Class II: Leslie Danoff, Wayt Thomas, Edith McBean, and two vacancies

Class III: Sally Davidson, John Mitchell, Thomas Lovejoy, Eric Veach and one vacancy

Committee assignments:

All committees are terminated except those listed below. The Board unanimously agreed.

Investment Committee: Brett Byers (Chair), Robert Giles, Eric Veach

Audit and Finance Committee: Sally Davidson (Chair), Robert Giles, Jeff Zack

Compensation Committee: John Mitchell (Chair), Brett Byers, Sally Davidson

Development & Outreach Committee: Leslie Danoff (Chair), Edith McBean, John Mitchell, Sommer Chatwin, Jeff Zack.

Conservation Committee: Wayt Thomas (Chair), Thomas Lovejoy, Edith McBean, John Mitchell

7. Other business.

Date of Next Board Meetings:

2015

- Saturday **May 16th 2015**; 9.30 AM-4 PM at International Conservation House (Warrenton, VA)
- **Thursday 17th September 2015**; 10 AM-3 PM in New York

2016

- Saturday **11th February 2016**: International Board meeting at Rainforest Trust Office, Warrenton.
- Saturday **12th March-Sunday 20th March 2016**: Ecuador Board Trip.
- Saturday **21st May 2016**: AGM at International House, Warrenton.
- Saturday **17th September 2016** in New York

BOARD TRIPS (voluntary):

- MADAGASCAR, October 12-25, 2015.
- ECUADOR, March 12-20, 2016: possibly with 1 day board meeting in Quito.

APPROVED
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Rainforest Trust

May 16, 2015

International Conservation House, 7078 Airlie Road, Warrenton, VA 20187

Present: John Mitchell (Chair), Leslie Danoff (Vice-chair), Sally Davidson (Treasurer), Dr. Wayt Thomas (Secretary), Edith McBean, Eric Veach, Robert Giles (via Skype), Sommer Chatwin, (via Skype) & Jeffrey Zack
Absent: Brett Byers & Dr. Thomas Lovejoy
Council present: Heather Hodges & Nigel Collar
Staff present: Dr. Robert Ridgely (President), Paul Salaman (CEO), & Malissa Cadwallader (COO)
Guests present: Larry Benjamin, Bert Harris, Kelvin Davies

1. Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from February 25-26-27, 2015 that included revised bylaws for Rainforest Trust.

2. Institutional overview

The CEO presented overall progress for Rainforest Trust in the first months of 2015, including:

- A total of **\$8,176,757** has been raised in early 2015 compared to **\$5,815,590 in the entire of 2014**.
- Rainforest Trust has a new office - "International Conservation House" - and we already have several other like-minded non-profits considering or preparing to join us so that we can create an international conservation campus.
- Our 2014 Annual report was just published (online and print).
- Major new projects approved in February 2015 are underway in Liberia, Cambodia, Sumatra, South Africa, Brazil, Panama, and Guatemala.
- Our 2014 Financial Audit has been completed and is pending review.
- All of Rainforest Trust's materials (from printer paper, business cards to annual reports) are now printed on recycled paper made from the highest post-consumer waste percentage possible (in almost all cases, 100% PCW) with renewable energy. To ensure this quality, we thoroughly investigated and switched print companies. We now include the recycled logo description with our printed materials.
- Rainforest Trust's Earth Day campaign raised over \$200,000 to protect more than 25,000 acres in Sumatra for the island's critically endangered Sumatran Tigers, Orangutans and Elephants.
- 28,027 acres in five countries have been directly protected by Rainforest Trust so far in 2015, including Madagascar and South Africa.
- The Sierra del Divisor National Park is about to be declared, which will be our biggest achievement ever and the final link in a 66 million acre contiguous Protected Area mosaic in western Amazonia!

The Board unanimously approved the motion to approve the following members of the Advisory Council:

- i. Dr. Bruce Beehler
- ii. Dr. Thomas Brooks
- iii. Dr. Nigel Collar
- iv. Heather Hodges
- v. Roger Pasquier
- vi. Prof. Sir Ghillean Prance
- vii. Dr. John Terborgh
- viii. Prof. David S. Wilcove

3. Project Resolutions

Twelve new project proposals were discussed by the Board:

Project # 1: Araucaria Forest Purchase in Brazil

The Board unanimously approved the motion to support the project to purchase and protect 136 acres with Associação dos Amigos do Meio Ambiente.

Project #2: Establishing the Massif de l'Ennedi in Chad as a UNESCO World Heritage site

The Board unanimously approved the motion to support the Massif de l'Ennedi project to protect 7,413,161 acres with African Parks.

Project #3: Establishing Prey Preah Roka Protected Forest in Northern Cambodia

The Board unanimously approved the motion to support the designation of 198,235 acres of the Prey Preah Roka Protected Forest.

Project #4: Expanding the Cambugán Watershed Reserve in Ecuador

The Board unanimously approved the project to support the purchase of 1,742 acres with the Cambugán Foundation contingent on a site visit by the President by July 2015.

Project #5: Establishing the Ilmamusi Mukugodo Community Forest, Kenya

The Board requested additional information from the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy on the future management of the Mukugodo Forest in Kenya before making a decision to vote on approving the project.

Project #6: The purchase of 4,700 acres to expand the LEWA Reserve, Kenya

The Board unanimously approved the motion to support the purchase and protection of 4,700 acres of land for Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Project #7: Torricelli Mountain Range Protected Area in Papua New Guinea

The Board requested additional information including a more detailed budget from the Tenkile Conservation Alliance on the future management of the proposed TMR Protected Area before making a decision to vote.

Project #8: Land purchase campaign to expand Buenaventura Reserve, Ecuador

The Board unanimously approved the motion to purchase 1,616 acres to expand the Buenaventura Reserve in Ecuador with Fundación Jocotoco.

Project #9: Post-conflict protected areas management: Scoping study towards strengthening protected areas networks in post-conflict countries – Somalia as a pilot country

The Board declined approval for UNEP-WCMC's project in Somalia because it was outside the scope of Rainforest Trust's mission.

Project #10: Securing the long-term sustainability of the Bonobo Peace Forest, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Board requested additional information from the Bonobo Conservation Initiative on the future management of the Bonobo Peace Forest in the DRC before making a decision to vote on approving the project.

Project #11: Establishment of the Lomami National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Board unanimously approved the motion to support the proposed 2,202,459 acre Lomami National Park in the DRC with the Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation.

Project #12: Ensuring habitat protection and connectivity for the Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey

The Board unanimously approved the motion to assist the purchase of 300 acres to protect habitat for the Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey with Neotropical Primate Conservation- Peru.

4. Committee reports

a) Report from the Finance and Audit Committee

Meeting: May 2015 (1-2 pm) in Washington, DC

Invited: Sally Davidson, Robert Giles (skype), Jeff Zack (skype), Paul Salaman, Patricia Munoz

The Finance and Audit Committee reviewed the interim accounts for the first quarter of 2015.

Other Matters:

- Internally Revised Budget with increases in income, conservation management expense and offset and project grants.

5. Other Business:

Date of Next meeting: THURSDAY 17th September 2015; 10 AM-3 PM in New York

Meeting closed at 4 PM.

APPROVED
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Rainforest Trust

September 17, 2015, 10.30 AM
New York, NY

Present: John Mitchell (Chair), Leslie Danoff (Vice-chair), Edith McBean, Jeffrey Zack, Dr. Eric Veach, Robert Giles (via Skype), and Sommer Chatwin (via Skype).
Absent: Sally Davidson (Treasurer), Dr. Wayt Thomas (Secretary), Brett Byers & Dr. Thomas Lovejoy
Council present: Roger Pasquier
Staff present: Dr. Paul Salaman (CEO), Dr. Robert Ridgely (President), & Malissa Cadwallader (COO)

1. Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from May 16, 2015, that included 12 new project proposals.

2. Institutional overview

i) CEO report

So far, 2015 has been an outstanding year on many fronts. First, we have built up an exceptionally talented and committed team of staff that is actively and efficiently implementing our mission and our 5-year Strategic Plan. Secondly, our new headquarters and campus for like-minded conservation groups has been a huge benefit to the organization in terms of increased visitation by donors and conservationists, plus raising morale and our profile.

Our leadership team (Bob, Paul and Malissa) have been boosted by strong support from the Board and from our newly elected Advisory Council.

We have raised nearly \$9 million to date in 2015 (compared to \$5.8 million in all of 2014) and now enter our most critical fundraising period. This past summer our Outreach team launched an amazing new website that has been a huge hit, plus social media outreach continues to thrive – with over 100,000 likes now on Facebook!

Importantly, we passed 8 million rainforest acres SAVED this summer – these are real acres we have permanently protected across the tropics. This year alone, we have directly protected 218,999 acres at risk in seven countries, thanks to our donors, partners, board and staff, including our first projects in South Africa, Sumatra and Madagascar! Other achievements in 2015 include:

- Rainforest Trust has firmly established the Conservation Campus at our new office -"International Conservation House" with five other like-minded non-profits based with us (Amphibian Survival Alliance, Africa ASAP, BlueLine Conservation, Conservation Allies, and Education for Nature Vietnam).
- We are increasing our partnerships across the tropics through the Ark Initiative.

I am incredibly grateful to the many people who are helping to make 2015 a success for Rainforest Trust.

ii) Development report

In the first 8 months of 2015, we raised \$8.8 million. This is 78% of our annual fundraising goal of \$11.3 million. We must raise an additional \$2.5 million in the final 4 months of the year to reach the annual goal.

iii) Conservation Outreach report

Since May, the Outreach Team has focused on preparing the new www.rainforesttrust.org, which was launched on July 6. Early results have been positive; the number of site users has risen 84.36% and pageviews 64.82%. We also redesigned our print bulletin and expanded it. Social media channels have continued to grow quickly, and Rainforest Trust's Facebook fans now total 117,000 and Twitter followers 25,000.

iv) Field Conservation report

The following 218,999 acres in 7 countries have been directly protected by Rainforest Trust so far in 2015 thanks to our donors and partners, including our first project in South Africa, Sumatra and Madagascar! Importantly we passed the **8 million acre** mark – real acres we can show we have permanently protected across the tropics.

Number of Acres Protected to Date in 2015:

Location	Country	Partner	# of Acres
REGUA Reserve	Brazil	REGUA	271
Serra Bonita Reserve	Brazil	Instituto Uiraçu	118
El Jaguar Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	4,905
Harpy Eagle Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	5,421
El Dorado Bird Reserve	Colombia	ProAves	297
Yunguilla Reserve	Ecuador	Jocotoco	104
Yanacocha Reserve	Ecuador	Jocotoco	6
San Isidro Amphibian Conservation Reserve	Guatemala	FUNDAECO	2,280
Ankaratra Massif Protected Area	Madagascar	VIF	20,558
Mangabe Protected Areas (7 total)	Madagascar	Madagasikara Voakajy	74,816
Geometric Tortoise Reserve	S. Africa	Turtle Conservancy	212
Bukit Tigapuluh NP- Jambi I & II	Sumatra	YKEHS	110,011

Conservation Project Highlights:

- 218,999 acres in seven countries have been directly protected so far in 2015.
- **On July 24, our local Sumatran partner, Yayasan Konservasi Ekosistem Hutan Sumatera (YKEHS), purchased the first two ecological concessions totaling 110,011 acres.** Work has already begun to secure the third area, a 90,384-acre concession, expected to be granted early next year and to permanently protect these areas by annexing them to the adjacent national park to create the single most important Protected Area for the critically endangered Sumatran Orangutan, Sumatran Tiger, and Sumatran Elephant.
- On Aug 31, the Southern Africa Tortoise Conservation Trust purchased 212 acres of unique *fynbos* habitat to establish the first reserve for the Critically Endangered Geometric Tortoise. This property and a planned second adjacent property in South Africa holds 80% of the global population of the tortoise. This spectacular species has never reproduced in captivity – so protecting the stronghold for the tortoise is a landmark for its continued survival.
- **On June 16, Madagascar’s prime minister signed the decree to create seven new Protected Areas totaling 74,816 acres of prime habitat for critically endangered species,** including lemurs like the Indri and Diademed Sifaka as well as the Golden Mantella Frog and Tarzan Chameleon. Our partner, Madagasikara Voakajy, has been working for nearly a decade to establish this mosaic of reserves, the largest of which is Mangabe Reserve.
- **Also in June, Rainforest Trust had another conservation success in Madagascar with a further 20,558-acre protected as the Ankaratra Massif Reserve** - only 50 miles from the Mangabe reserves.
- On July 17, ProAves acquired the final two properties to expand El Dorado reserve by 297 acres, importantly connecting the reserve from the east to the west (previously the reserve was two separate forest blocks that were hard to manage). This has consolidated the almost 3,000-acre reserve and provided a bright future for one of the world’s greatest concentrations of unique birds, amphibians, invertebrates and plants – found nowhere else.
- Also working with our Colombian partner Fundación ProAves, **three properties were purchased in May to create the 4,905-acre El Jaguar Reserve** in the Amazon to protect an isolated population of Jaguars that face the combined threats of hunting as well as habitat loss from logging and palm oil plantations.

- Presently, **our local partner FUNDAECO in Guatemala is finalizing the purchase of a 2,000-acre property from 109 coffee farmers in the Cuchumatanes Mountains** that will become the San Isidro Salamander Reserve, protecting critical habitat for the Agile Salamander and many other endemic species including two Critically Endangered frog species.
- Peru's Sierra del Divisor National Park is closer to being declared, which will be our biggest achievement ever and the final link in a 66-million-acre contiguous Protected Area mosaic in western Amazonia, which we have been working toward for 20 years!

v) Finance and Audit Report

Funds raised to date: \$8,834,888, as compared to \$3,577,638 for the same time period in 2014, a rise of 147%.

3. Project Resolutions

Nine new project proposals were discussed by the Board:

Project # 1. Protecting the Tanoé forest for Côte d'Ivoire's threatened primates.

The Board unanimously approved support for the proposed project in Côte d'Ivoire to protect 29,652 acres with the condition that the area is declared within a reasonable timeline and that there is adequate support from the government.

Project # 2. Protecting the Congo rainforest.

The Board raised concern over the budget and operating expenses of potential partner Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI). Future Board approval of this project is contingent on additional due-diligence on the partner from independent sources familiar with the region.

Project # 3. Saving the Taita Apalis from extinction.

The Board unanimously approved support for the proposed project in Kenya to purchase 35 acres, but requested the partner negotiate prices lower and that Rainforest Trust provide significant technical support with the land purchase.

Project # 4. Creating a buffer zone around Obô Natural Park.

The Board unanimously approved support for the proposed project in São Tomé and Príncipe to protect 50,827 acres on the condition that a local NGO is established within two years in São Tomé.

Project # 5. Expanding the Geometric Tortoise Preserve.

The Board unanimously approved the project in South Africa to protect 1,006 acres conditional upon receiving a 1:1 match from the partner.

Project # 6. Protecting Indonesia's most threatened forest type, Bornean peat swamp forest.

The Board raised concern over the for-profit structure of RMU. Future consideration of this project by the Board would be contingent on establishing a mechanism for non-profit management and support.

Project # 7. Protecting Maleo nesting areas and dispersal corridors in Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The Board unanimously approved the purchase of the second parcel on the beach in Sulawesi, Indonesia, with the condition that staff perform additional due diligence on the project and that the Conservation Committee discuss the types of partners we are supporting in November.

Project # 8. Protecting one of the Sumatran Rhino's last holdouts.

The Board unanimously approved support for the proposed project to protect 105,267 acres for the Sumatran Rhinoceros.

Project # 9. Protection for the San Martin Titi Monkey.

The Board unanimously approved support for the proposed project in Peru to protect 10,944 acres.

4. Investment Committee Report

During the first half of 2015, no investments were sold and no new investments were made.

5. Other business

i. Proposed members of Advisory Council

The Board unanimously accepted two new members to the advisory council:

Linda Perry Lube is a digital marketing leader, Linda is an expert in strategic branding, marketing and communications. As the first Chief Digital Officer for the American Museum of Natural History, she transformed the Museum into a leading 21st century digitally innovative cultural institution. A passionate advocate for wildlife and conservation, Linda relishes applying her knowledge of cutting-edge mobile, social media, and digital technologies to help Rainforest Trust protect the world's tropical forests. Linda received a B.A. in Business and Economics from the University of Maryland and a M.S. in Information Science from Wayne State University.

Dr. Gwen Brewer has a background in conservation, ornithology and ecology and has worked on the ground in Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador and Chile. She pursued more direct conservation work with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and now manages the science program for the Maryland state wildlife agency working in conservation planning, rare species monitoring and research, determination of species' legal statuses, development of protection strategies, and on-the ground conservation projects. An avid birder and nature enthusiast, Gwen has traveled widely and enjoys learning about habitats, species, and conservation challenges and successes both locally and internationally. She has been a committed supporter of Rainforest Trust and its partners for over 10 years. Gwen lives near Washington, DC, with her husband George Jett, retired chemical engineer, nature photographer, and long-time supporter of Rainforest Trust. Gwen received a B.S. in Zoology at Michigan State University and Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of Minnesota.

ii. Date of the Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Ayampe, western Ecuador, from **13-20th March 2016**. We will visit three flagship nature reserves of our local Ecuadorian partner, Fundación Jocotoco.

Meeting closed at 3:40pm
