

RAINFOREST TRUST®



VOL. IX: 2018

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE AMAZON

SPECIES CREDITS

Jaguar, Gary Whyte
Capped Heron, Bernard Dupont
Black Caiman, Bernard Dupont
Silver Arowana, Livingpitty
Red-backed Poison Frog
Lowland Tapir



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COVER PHOTO CREDITS

Front: Traditional Dance, YK-RASI

Back Top: Vladimir Wrangel

Back: Nick Fox ;Avigator Thailand

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RAINFOREST
TRUST®

We purchase and protect threatened tropical habitats to save endangered wildlife through local partnerships and community engagement.

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

A journey to experience the Amazon Rainforest, for many is a dream. A dream where they get to experience the beauty of the place, full of life, plants, animals, rivers, communities of people rich in a culture tied to the land, the sheer wildness of it. Even if a trip is not possible, simply knowing that the Amazon is there, keeps a love of nature and that dream alive.

The Amazon rainforest has a lure like no other place.

Since beginning our work 30 years ago, with your support, we have made tremendous strides to save the Amazon, and tropical places like it, around the world.

But I am especially proud of our portfolio in Peru where together with our partners we have protected 9.2 million acres of land in the Amazon basin. What's better, we are working on another 8.5 million acres to be protected by 2025. Combined, this will mean with your support, we will have protected an area in the Peruvian Amazon slightly smaller than South Carolina!

In the pages of this magazine you will read about and see the beauty of the Amazon, the people and species who live there. You will learn about our efforts to help indigenous people access their rights by gaining title their ancestral lands. By empowering these communities via official ownership, we arm them with a strong and robust tool to protect and preserve the land against the growing forces that try to destroy it every day.

Working with local communities and conservationists underpins all of our work. It is a critical factor in our success thus far and will continue to be far into the future, because of our mutual passion for the rainforest.

But you share this passion, this dream. And with this magazine issue, we hope to connect you with our partners in Peru. Together, we can do great things to protect the vast Peruvian Amazon, and all the rainforests around the world.

For the species, for the communities, for the planet, for the rainforests,

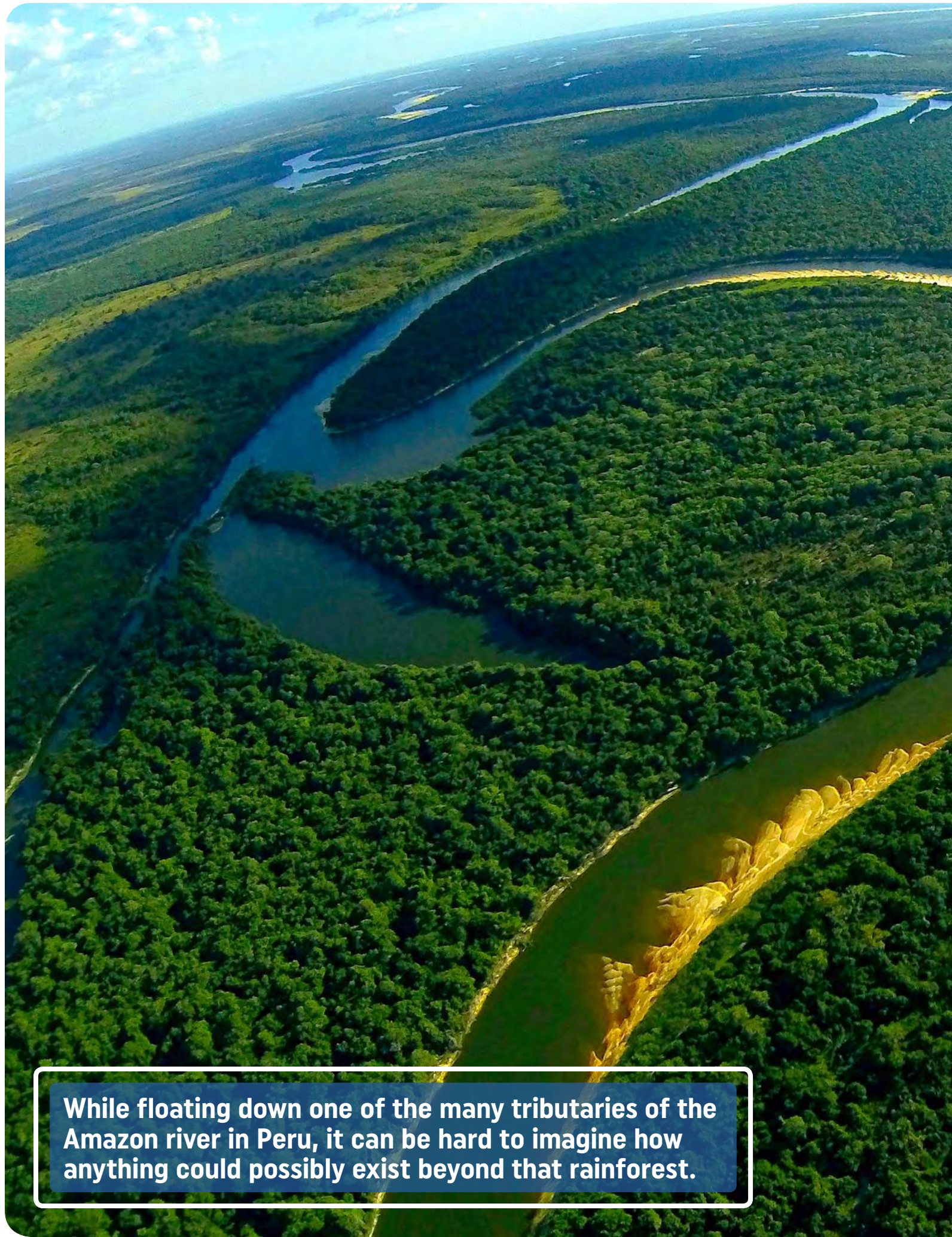


Dr. Paul Salaman

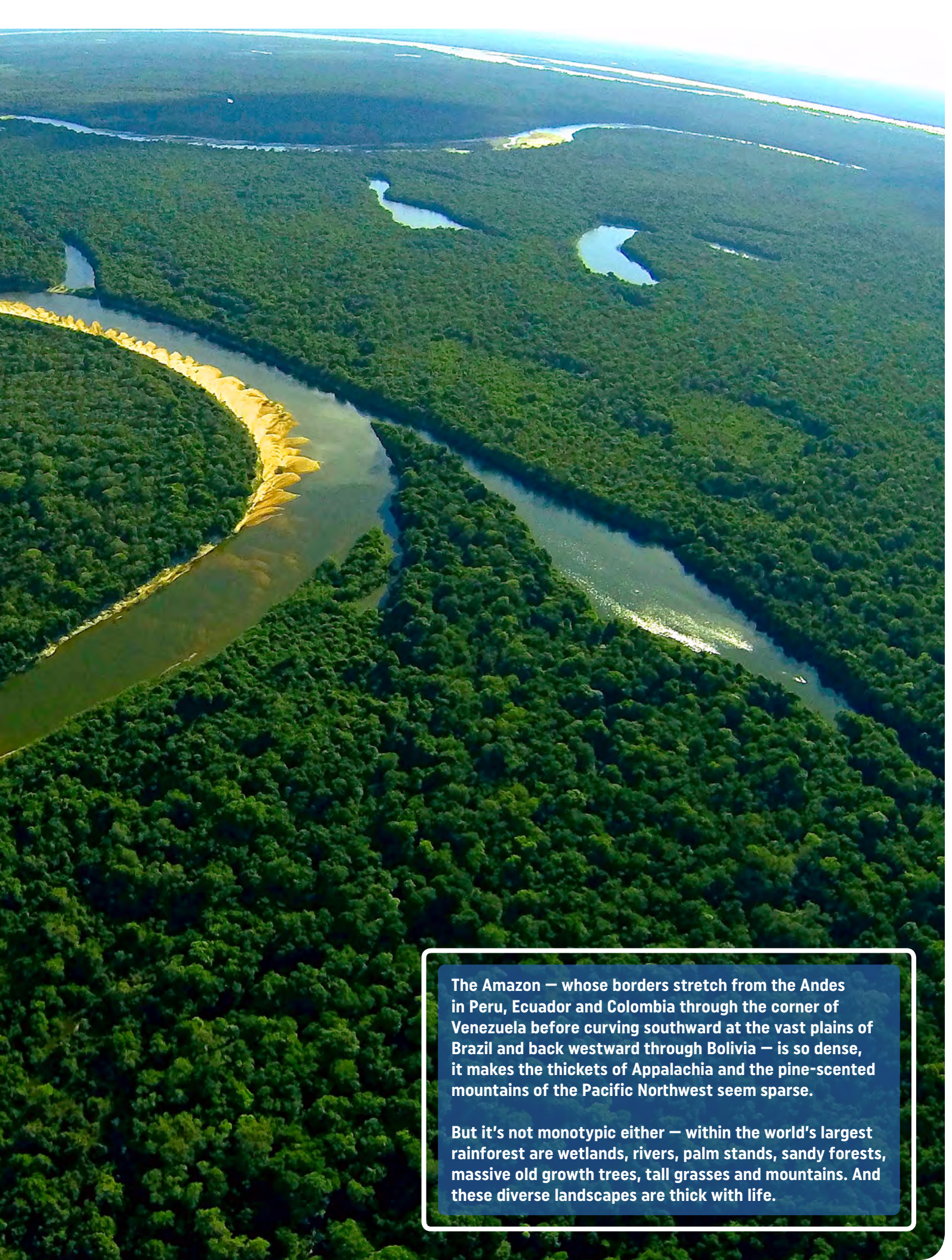


DR. PAUL SALAMAN, CEO

At the age of eight, Paul met Sir David Attenborough and became enthralled by international wildlife conservation. As a teenager, he managed a nature reserve in London and traveled across the tropics visiting rainforests. A graduate of Oxford University, Paul has discovered four bird species new to science over the last 25 years. Paul joined Rainforest Trust in 2008.



While floating down one of the many tributaries of the Amazon river in Peru, it can be hard to imagine how anything could possibly exist beyond that rainforest.



The Amazon — whose borders stretch from the Andes in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia through the corner of Venezuela before curving southward at the vast plains of Brazil and back westward through Bolivia — is so dense, it makes the thickets of Appalachia and the pine-scented mountains of the Pacific Northwest seem sparse.

But it's not monotypic either — within the world's largest rainforest are wetlands, rivers, palm stands, sandy forests, massive old growth trees, tall grasses and mountains. And these diverse landscapes are thick with life.

On the ground, lizards and frogs in endless shapes, colors and sizes scuttle in the grass and ring a chorus in the night. Capybaras and tapirs plod from river to riverbank, tinamous and Hoatzins cling under and on top of low shrubs and Jaguars hide, silent in the cacophony around them.

Up in the air, parrots never stop chirping, including the occasional macaws soaring overhead in pairs and breaking the din every few moments with a piercing squawk. Bats cling to fruit and hunt the multitude of insects that rise and fall with and against the sun.

And under the water, fish ranging from colorful tetras to massive, brown Arapaima live in the muddy waters while caiman peek their reflective eyes above the surface.





Watching those crocodilians act so calm, it can be tempting to think that the Amazon is a place of easy access to food, water and shelter. But despite containing multitudes, the jungle makes it inhabitants work for all of it.

The macaws who alight on the tallest trees are often in search of nutrients to sustain their diets. The heron may rest for a time but soon enough will need a fish to satiate its avian stomach. The jaguar will fail often on the hunt.

But the Amazon is not alone in this. Earth does not provide life — it provides the opportunity for life and the wonder of evolution provides the momentum life needs to succeed.

For no species is this more true than for the human.



In human communities, our daily challenges are multitude.

We need not only to stay fed, healthy and sheltered. We need to make sure our families and neighbors have the same. We need to work for today and tomorrow. We worry about education for our children and economic well-being for our towns.

People in the Amazon face these challenges in that great, thick forest. But, just as in the grasslands, metropolises, islands, suburbs, farmlands, tundra and deserts, we humans find a way to make it work.

And when a community so thick with life, joy, love and friendship, it can be hard to imagine how anything could possibly exist beyond it, much like the rainforest itself.



But outside each community, outside the forest, outside the Amazon, is the rest of the world. Outside the Amazon, people go to work in office buildings or in fields unaware of the forest's cycle of rainy and dry seasons. People laugh and weep without a thought to the fishing communities of the Amazon's tributaries. Children grow old and die without having ever seen the emerald wings of the Amazon Kingfisher splash into water.

This is the nature of human society.

But it is also the nature of human society that, while we may not always be thinking of places far away, we are always affecting those places.

Our stronghold of electricity flows across the planet's surface, transmitting light, motion, power and ideas.

We can travel from continent to continent in mere hours. We can communicate with other continents in mere seconds. With this feat of engineering we've changed Earth forever. But it is ironic that as we grow more connected and more in tune with each other, the mutual symbiosis of Earth's evolutionary biodiversity becomes more degraded.

The toxins spewed by our energy, transportation, manufacturing and assembling spread through the atmosphere, accompanied by carbon-based gases that are changing the way our climate works.





The rainforest is also full of carbon — but this carbon serves as the basis of life, not a threat to it. Each towering kapok, each bubbling puddle and each katydid, turtle and capuchin monkey are made of carbon. The ecosystems pulls carbon from our atmosphere to build and rebuild the endless cycle of life and death. But when the rainforest is slashed, burned or otherwise destroyed and degraded, much of that carbon ends up back in the atmosphere. There, it contributes to the climate crisis.

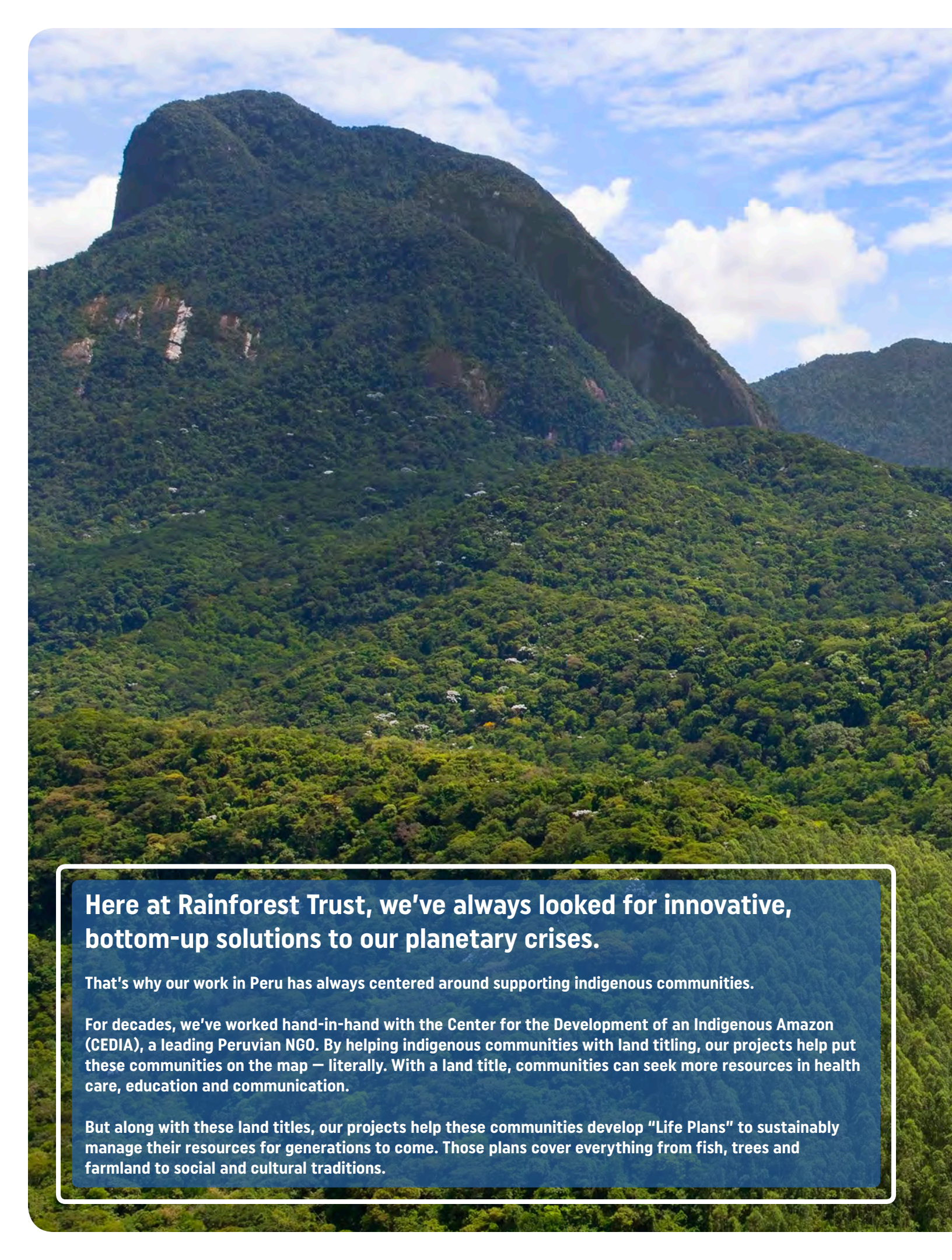
So by destroying the rainforest, we're both eliminating one of Earth's best defense systems and accelerating our environmental disaster.



Many indigenous communities of the Amazon, though reliant on the ecosystem around them, also rely on larger governments and organizations outside the rainforest for support. But many communities do not have land titles — meaning there's little way for them to receive resources or have their voices heard. In addition, without land titles, their space is at risk of becoming land for logging and mining corporations. But to receive these land titles, communities need an excess of time, resources and money on hand. So for most communities, legal recognition seems outside the realm of possibility.



The rainforest is thick with powerful life
— but it is not insusceptible to our actions
throughout the rest of the planet.

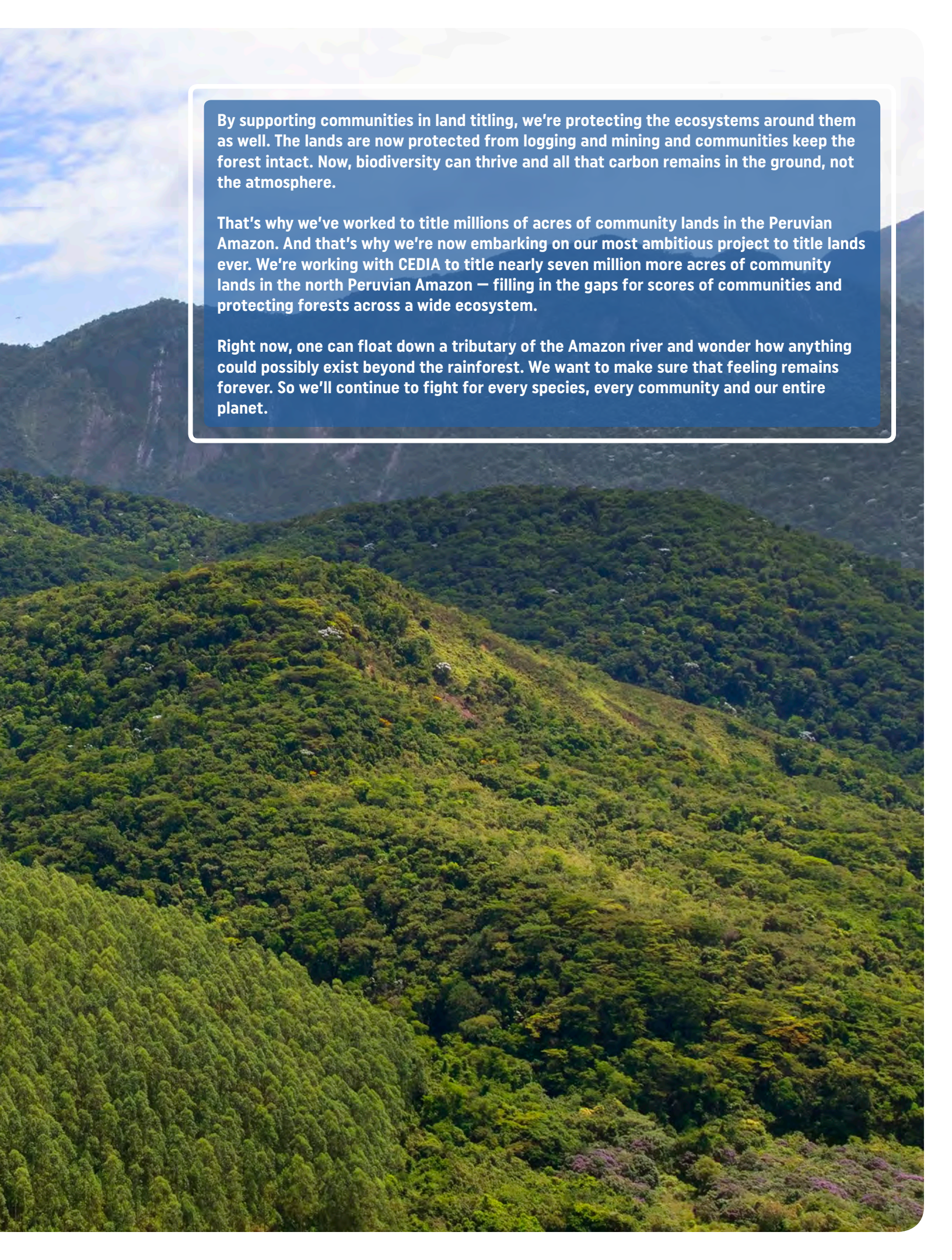


Here at Rainforest Trust, we've always looked for innovative, bottom-up solutions to our planetary crises.

That's why our work in Peru has always centered around supporting indigenous communities.

For decades, we've worked hand-in-hand with the Center for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon (CEDIA), a leading Peruvian NGO. By helping indigenous communities with land titling, our projects help put these communities on the map — literally. With a land title, communities can seek more resources in health care, education and communication.

But along with these land titles, our projects help these communities develop "Life Plans" to sustainably manage their resources for generations to come. Those plans cover everything from fish, trees and farmland to social and cultural traditions.

An aerial photograph of a vast, lush green forested mountain range in the Peruvian Amazon. The terrain is covered in dense, vibrant green vegetation, with some rocky outcrops visible. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent blue box with white text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

By supporting communities in land titling, we're protecting the ecosystems around them as well. The lands are now protected from logging and mining and communities keep the forest intact. Now, biodiversity can thrive and all that carbon remains in the ground, not the atmosphere.

That's why we've worked to title millions of acres of community lands in the Peruvian Amazon. And that's why we're now embarking on our most ambitious project to title lands ever. We're working with CEDIA to title nearly seven million more acres of community lands in the north Peruvian Amazon — filling in the gaps for scores of communities and protecting forests across a wide ecosystem.

Right now, one can float down a tributary of the Amazon river and wonder how anything could possibly exist beyond the rainforest. We want to make sure that feeling remains forever. So we'll continue to fight for every species, every community and our entire planet.

UrgentProtection

Support the conservation work of Rainforest Trust around the world.



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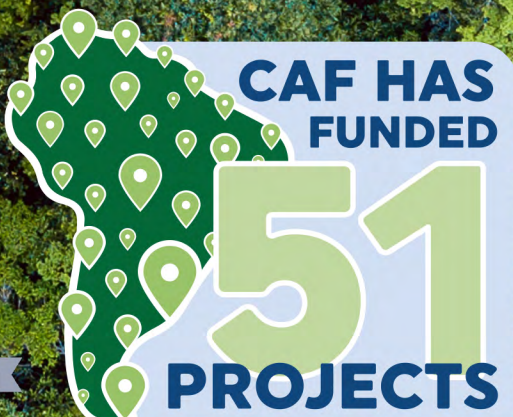
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Every day, precious acres of rainforest are lost forever. Critically endangered species lose their habitat. Communities lose their sustaining forests. Water sources and weather systems are disrupted. Our planet is impacted when stored carbon is released by deforestation and degradation.

Rainforest Trust believes that the simple solution of stopping deforestation of the last remaining tropical habitats will positively impact species, communities

and the planet. A gift to our Conservation Action Fund (CAF) supports our most urgent work around the world.

Our conservation work makes a tangible difference. Whether it is preserving the Amazon and the way of life for indigenous people, purchasing rainforest in Borneo to create an urgently needed corridor for Bornean Pygmy Elephants or establishing a network of new national parks across Cambodia, with your support we will preserve all types of critical areas for life on Earth.



Visit RainforestTrust.org/donate to make a donation.