

RAINFOREST TRUST®

VOLUME VIII: 2018

A young girl with short, dark hair is sitting on the forest floor, leaning against a tree trunk. She is wearing a light-colored, sleeveless top and a patterned skirt. She is holding a long, thin wooden stick in her hands. The background is a lush, green forest with tall grass and various plants.

**NATIONAL PARK LAUNCHED
WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

DR. ERIC VEACH TO CHAIR RAINFOREST TRUST BOARD

Dr. Eric Veach, a software engineer, was elected as the new chair of Rainforest Trust's board of directors in March, after serving as vice chair since 2016.

He and his wife, Luanne Lemmer, have provided key support to a number of Rainforest Trust projects since 2008. Last year, they received the rare honor of having two new species of moths named for them: *Chlorosema lemmerae* and *Rosema veachi*.

"The key to saving the world's threatened species is to save their habitats," Dr. Veach said. "This is truly one of the most urgent priorities in conservation, considering the tremendous rate at which rainforest is being lost every year. I am very proud of the incredible work that Rainforest Trust has done so far, and I am looking forward to helping us achieve even more."

Dr. Veach takes over leadership of the board from John Mitchell, an adjunct scientist at the New York Botanical Garden and research associate at the Smithsonian Institution-National Museum of Natural History. He helped guide Rainforest Trust through a recent period of unprecedented growth, and he will remain active with the board in his new role as chair emeritus.



"Eric has been an important supporter of the organization for 10 years, and we are delighted with the passion and commitment he brings to this new role," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman. "I also want to highlight the incredible job John Mitchell did during his 17 years leading our board."

WAYS TO GIVE

Online: (Credit Card or PayPal)
RainforestTrust.org

Phone:
1 (800) 456-4930

Mail:
Rainforest Trust
7078 Airlie Road, Warrenton, VA 20187

EFT:
Contact us to learn more,
donations@RainforestTrust.org

Stock Donations:
Contact us to transfer stocks, bonds or mutual funds, donations@RainforestTrust.org

Crowdrise Campaign:
Start your own fundraising campaign for Rainforest Trust and invite friends and family to support your cause.

Planned Giving:
Create a conservation legacy by including Rainforest Trust in your planned giving. Visit RainforestTrust.org/PlannedGiving or contact us today.

Rainforest Trust Tax ID: 13-3500609



facebook.com/RainforestTrust



twitter.com/RainforestTrust



youtube.com/RainforestTrust



instagram.com/RainforestTrust



**ROLLAND
ENVIRO100™
PRINT**

Proudly printed on 100% recycled paper made with renewable energy.

Help us recycle this newsletter even further by sharing it with family and friends.

PHOTO CREDITS

Front: Traditional Dance, YK-RASI

Back: Pygmy Elephants, Ch'ien C. Lee



**RAINFOREST
TRUST®**

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

Senior Staff

Dr. Paul Salaman
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Robert Ridgely
President

Dr. George E. Wallace
Chief Conservation Officer

Leslie VanSant
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Marc Ford
Chief Outreach Officer

Patricia Munoz-Chernitsky
Chief Financial Officer

Mark Gruin
Director of Partnerships

Board of Directors

Dr. Eric Veach, **Chair**
Edith McBean, **Vice Chair**
Sally Davidson, **Treasurer**
Dr. Wayt Thomas, **Secretary**
Dr. E.O. Wilson, **Member**
Geoffrey Chen, **Member**
Robert Giles, **Member**
Eric Goode, **Member**
Patricia Koval, **Member**
Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, **Member**
Kim Stewart, **Member**
Jeffrey Zack, **Member**
John D. Mitchell, **Chair Emeritus**

Advisory Council

Dr. Bruce Beehler
Dr. Gwen Brewer
Callie Broadus
Dr. Thomas Brooks
Brett Byers
Dr. Nigel Collar
John Gwynne
Ambassador Heather Hodges
Alan Martin
Dr. Russell Mittermeier
Roger Pasquier
Linda Perry-Lube
Sir Ghilleen Prance
Scott Rasmussen
Dr. Peter Raven
Dr. Simon Stuart
Dr. John Terborgh
Dr. David Wilcove
Roland Wirth

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

"You are capable of more than you know. Choose a goal that seems right for you and strive to be the best, however hard the path. Aim high. Behave honorably. Prepare to be alone at times, and to endure failure. Persist! The world needs all you can give."

Rainforest Trust Board Member Dr. E.O. Wilson made the above statement many years before he joined our board, but his sentiment resonates powerfully within me and our organization today. Two years ago, we upped our commitment to save species, care for communities and protect our planet by setting a bold goal to save 50 million acres by 2020. But we have not acted alone. You have been with us every step of the way, helping us save more than 18 million acres, and we thank you for that!

As our impact grows, so does yours. Already this year, the Rainforest Trust board, under direction of newly installed Chair Dr. Eric Veach, has approved 23 new projects across the tropics. In total, we are working on protecting 30 million new acres that, when added to our 18 million already saved, has us pushing up against our 2020 goal.

Take our work in Ecuador, for example. Over the last 30 years, Rainforest Trust has protected a total of 320,410 acres in this biodiverse and beautiful country. If you lined up all of those acres end to end, it would be equal to driving from New York to Los Angeles more than four times! We are proud of our recent work with Fundación Jocotoco in Ecuador to expand three reserves (highlighted on page 5).

Our impact is felt beyond the boundaries of any individual reserve or country. Rainforest Trust's tried and true conservation model — protecting habitat — is being recognized more and more as the most cost-effective way to have an immediate, positive impact on our climate (learn more on page 12).

As Dr. Wilson says: "Persist! The world needs all you can give." At Rainforest Trust, we aim high and are thankful to be working with our local partners to achieve our ambitious goals. Thanks to new partnerships with corporations like Sambazon and Legendary: Game of Heroes (stories found on page 21 & 22), we are connecting with more people who believe in saving the rainforest.

I hope you enjoy this first Rainforest Trust newsletter of 2018. Please share it with a friend and let them know why our work inspires you.

For the rainforests,



Dr. Paul Salaman



“For indigenous communities, land is a source of livelihood and central to their economic, social and cultural rights.”

EXPANDING PROTECTION, SECURING CARBON IN PERU'S AMAZON RAINFOREST

..... **Sierra del Divisor, Peru**

Rainforest Trust and its local partner Center for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon (CEDIA) once again expanded protection around Sierra del Divisor National Park in Peru with an additional 42,867 acres in February 2018.

These new acres were added by helping three campesino communities (Monte de los Olivos, Canelos and Alto Perillos) obtain proper land titles as part of a larger effort to title over 50 community territories. These will form a firewall against colonization around Sierra del Divisor National Park and the soon-to-be White Sands National Reserve.

“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 campaign to deforest and destroy the land,” said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman.

“When Rainforest Trust helps indigenous peoples secure legal rights to their land, it not only gives them rights to block mining and logging, but gives them one of the most basic of human rights. For indigenous communities, land is a source of livelihood and central to their economic, social and cultural rights.”

It is estimated that there are over 500 indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon that are still in need of proper land titles. However, this four-year project with CEDIA, which is expected to be completed next year, will provide land titles to all communities in the western part of Sierra del Divisor and in the Tapiche and Blanco River Basin north of the park.

This security not only benefits the communities, but as it empowers landowners to prevent deforestation, it will also have a positive impact on the planet. According to new research, the Peruvian Amazon has historically been a tremendous carbon sink. In fact, researchers at the Carnegie Institution for Science recently determined that the aboveground carbon storage of the area is 6.83 billion metric tons. However, as deforestation and degradation increase in Peru, these same forests are becoming carbon sources.

The Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP) took this information and determined that 59 million metric tons of carbon were lost during the last five years. But they also showed that land protection can solve this problem, highlighting Sierra del Divisor National Park as one example.

"The article reports that Loreto and Ucayali are the regions with the highest carbon loss, and Sierra del Divisor is effectively safeguarding more than 3 million acres shared by these two regions," said Dani Enrique Rivera Gonzalez, Project Director of CEDIA.

Climbing from an immense swath of rainforest, the Sierra del Divisor Mountain Range stretches more than 600 miles along the Peru-Brazil border in the heart of the Amazon Basin. Complete with plunging waterfalls, dormant volcanic cones, wild rivers, pristine forests and uncontacted tribes, this largely unknown and unexplored range is one

of the Amazon's last true wildernesses. The region is home to a biological community rich in rare and threatened species, including 38 mammals such as Jaguars, South American Tapirs and Red Uakari Monkeys. There are also believed to be 3,500 plant species, 300 fish species, 365 bird species and 109 amphibian species.

Through the generous support of our friends around the world and the SAVES Challenge, this project is a success. A special thank you to Leslie H. Danoff and Lawrence S. Robbins, GreaterGood.org, Luanne Lemmer and Dr. Eric Veach, the late Philip May and Leslie Santos and Brett Byers for their leadership gifts.

CEDIA



REGION

Latin America



COUNTRY

Peru



ACRES

42,867



TREES SAVED

~7,759,000



THREATENED SPECIES

17



CO2 EQUIVALENT

~8,817,000 mT CO2

ECUADOR

RESERVE EXPANSIONS IN ECUADOR INCREASE PROTECTION BY OVER 500 ACRES

..... **Buenaventura Reserve, Narupa Reserve & Río Canandé Reserve,** Ecuador

Buenaventura Reserve is one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots on Earth in an area with an annual deforestation rate of nearly 2 percent. Rainforest Trust recently helped our local partner Fundación Jocotoco expand this reserve by 180 acres as part of a large conservation initiative to create a 222,395-acre ecological corridor throughout El Oro province. This high level of deforestation, combined with the already fragmented nature of this landscape, makes it crucial to save the last remaining forest patches in the area.

The reserve harbors 14 globally threatened bird species, four of which only occur in western

Ecuador. Approximately half the global population of Endangered El Oro Parakeets and the few dozen remaining Endangered Ecuadorian Tapaculos depend on the reserve for their survival. Saving this well-forested property from logging also protects many rare plants and provides habitat for the Critically Endangered Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin.

Narupa Reserve was expanded by 243 acres and will now have additional protection from threats such as illegal logging, deforestation and agricultural expansion. This reserve is located in the Napo bioregion of northeast Ecuador and is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. Enlarging



BOTTOM: BROWN-HEADED SPIDER MONKEY, MICHAEL MOENS

ECUADOR

Narupa Reserve protects viable populations of globally threatened species, including four species of Endangered amphibians. Rainforest Trust will continue helping its local partner expand Narupa Reserve to eventually achieve strategic connectivity with Reserva Ecologica Antisana and Sumaco-Napo-Galeras.

Río Canandé Reserve was expanded by 98 acres as part of the long-term objective of establishing an ecological corridor between Canandé and Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve. This reserve is a hotspot for biodiversity with one of the highest concentrations of endemic species in the world. The reserve holds the sole population of the Critically Endangered Canandé Magnolia and is home to the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey, one of the world's rarest primates. The area is also critical for the Mache Glass Frog and is one of the few sites where the

species is found. Río Canandé Reserve has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area and serves as a refuge for over 350 bird species, including at least 36 Endangered Great Green Macaws that inhabit the area – perhaps the largest group in Ecuador.

Rainforest Trust will continue to support the purchase of critical properties to expand Buenaventura Reserve, Narupa Reserve and Río Canandé Reserve, as well as other protected areas throughout Ecuador. These reserves provide security for some of the world's most biodiverse and threatened habitats.

Thank you to our generous friends and the SAVES Challenge for making these projects a success. For more information on how you can support conservation projects, please visit the Conservation Action Fund.



JOCOTOCO



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Ecuador



ACRES
521



TREES SAVED
~93,000



THREATENED SPECIES
66



CO2 EQUIVALENT
~71,000 mT CO2

COSTA RICA

MISIÓN TIBURÓN

**REGION**

Latin America

**COUNTRY**

Costa Rica

**ACRES**

7,439

**TREES SAVED**

Negligible

**THREATENED SPECIES**

5

**CO2 EQUIVALENT**

Negligible

COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES COUNTRY'S FIRST SHARK SANCTUARY

..... **Golfo Dulce**, Costa Rica

Outgoing Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís announced in May the designation of more than 7,000 acres of critical nursery habitat for the Scalloped Hammerhead, a shark that is listed as Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. This Shark Sanctuary is the first of its kind in Costa Rica, and it establishes a new strict protection level and governance model that requires community commitment.

Rainforest Trust worked with its local partner Misión Tiburón to create the Scalloped Hammerhead Shark Sanctuary of Golfo Dulce, a unique ecosystem that is one of only four tropical fjords in the world. It is also a smaller, yet critical, portion of the larger 172,974-acre Marine Management Area and Shark Sanctuary that is planned for the entire Golfo Dulce ecosystem and supported by the conservation organizations.

"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 as well as other endangered species," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman. "We congratulate President Solís and all Costa Ricans for making this designation."

Golfo Dulce is home to several species of sharks, including Endangered Scalloped Hammerheads, which are coastal and semi-oceanic sharks found in warm temperate and tropical seas. Neonates and juveniles live in nursery areas located in the coastal waters of estuaries, bays and mangroves, where nutrient-rich waters provide food and protection from predators. Other sharks that will benefit from the sanctuary include Tiger Sharks, Bull Sharks, Blacktip Sharks and Whitetip Reef

Sharks. Apart from the seasonal aggregations of Whale Sharks, many of the sharks that inhabit the gulf are juveniles, which further demonstrates Golfo Dulce's importance as a shark nursery. In addition to sharks, the biological diversity of Golfo Dulce includes 276 species of fish, 296 species of mollusks, 71 species of macrocrustaceans, eight species of whales and dolphins and numerous rays. Sea turtles also feed here, including the Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtle, Endangered Green Turtle and Vulnerable Olive Ridley.

"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."

This Shark Sanctuary will establish no-take zones in the most critical nursery habitat for the sharks, the wetlands of Coto River, among other important areas. It bans the catch, capture, transportation and retention of hammerheads, and halts all exploitation of marine resources until a proper management plan is established to regulate wildlife harvesting from within the protected area. The management plan is also expected to include a strategy for patrols conducted by the local partner's team in collaboration with the government coast guard.

Rainforest Trust would like to thank the Goodstone Inn & Restaurant and Playa Cativo Lodge for their generous support for this project.



NEPAL

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS PURCHASE PROPERTIES FOR WILDLIFE IN NEPAL

..... Koshi Tappu Wildlife Sanctuary, Nepal

Rainforest Trust is pleased to announce the purchase of five parcels of vital riparian habitat in partnership with KTK-BELT and International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC). The acquired properties lie next to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in Nepal, and their purchase will fortify and expand the country's first and largest Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance site.

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, with a new expanded total acreage of 42,520, provides habitat protection for numerous globally threatened species. These include six species of vultures – four of which are Critically Endangered – as well as the Critically Endangered Red-crowned Roofed Turtle and Bengal Florican. With 485 recorded bird species in this small reserve, it is considered one of the most important aquatic bird reserves in South Asia.

"Rainforest Trust is proud to partner with KTK-BELT and ICFC to strategically acquire 40 acres of threatened woodland and wetland habitat and expand the spectacular Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman. "This additional habitat protection helps numerous endangered wildlife species, like the Ganges River Dolphin and the Red-crowned Roofed Turtle."

The expanded reserve section includes an important forest that is vital to the Critically

Endangered nesting vultures. In the last 20 years, forest cover has declined by more than 80 percent in the Koshi Tappu ecosystem, reducing these nesting sites in particular. This expanded security also prevents land-grabbing in this sensitive buffer region, and provides increased defense against invasive weeds, wildlife trapping and overfishing.

The completion of this project will assist ongoing efforts by other institutions and nongovernmental organizations currently working to double the size of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve due to its ecological importance. It also gives our partner the opportunity to begin restoration activities.

Another crucial aspect of this purchase is that the parcel is located in the south of the reserve, where conservation efforts have been challenged due to a lack of community engagement, stemming from discrimination the communities have historically faced. Our local partner worked closely with the communities surrounding this new protected area to increase education about the importance of conservation, and has provided valuable alternative livelihood opportunities such as vulture eco-tourism, Ganges River Dolphin viewing areas and bio-brick production using harvested invasive plant species as a benefit to the local populations.

Through the generous support of the Conservation Action Fund and the SAVES Challenge, this project is a success.



KTK-BELT



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Nepal



ACRES
40



TREES SAVED
Negligible



THREATENED SPECIES
36



CO2 EQUIVALENT
Negligible



LIBERIA

LAUNCH OF GOLA FOREST NATIONAL PARK WITH COMMUNITY CEREMONY

..... Gola Forest National Park, Liberia

Although Liberia's 54th National Legislature signed the Gola Forest National Park into law on September 22, 2016, the new protected area was officially launched in May with a community-focused regional ceremony in Kungba District, SLC, Gbarpolu County. Over 250 people from local and national government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, project donors and community members – including clan and town chiefs – attended the event.

Rainforest Trust worked with its local partner Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) to help establish the 219,609-acre Gola Forest National Park. This is only the second national park in the country. It is located in Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties, along the border with Sierra Leone. The park creates a transboundary corridor of protection with Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park. Together, these two parks safeguard one of largest remaining tracks of Upper Guinea Forest and form one of the largest protected area complexes in West Africa at nearly 400,000 acres.

Rainforest Trust's local partner is committed to working with local communities to achieve lasting conservation results in this new park by having field staff visit communities regularly to ensure that they remain educated about and involved

in the park designation and ongoing, long-term management.

"All of the staff of the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) deserve the highest praise for their dedication and efforts made for several years to inform and engage the regional traditional and district authorities and residents of villages and towns in the conservation of their forest as a national park," said Rainforest Trust Senior Africa Conservation Officer Dr. Sally Lahm. "It is reassuring to know that SCNL will continue to work with them into the future so that communities are involved in the management of their park."

As one of Africa's most important biodiversity hotspots, the area is home to 60 species assessed as threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, including the Vulnerable African Elephant. Facing threats from habitat loss and especially poaching, African Elephants have suffered catastrophic population declines in recent decades. In addition, surveys in the Gola Forest National Park have identified 48 other medium-to-large mammal species, including Diana Monkeys, Critically Endangered Western Chimpanzees, Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamuses, Jentink's Duikers and Western Red Colobus Monkeys.



TOP: CANAS; BOTTOM LEFT: BARNARD; BOTTOM RIGHT: C THOMAS

TAKING URGENT ACTION

HOW RAINFOREST TRUST FIGHTS CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH HABITAT PROTECTION

UP TO **15%** OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS
ABOUT THE SAME AS THE ENTIRE WORLD'S
TRANSPORTATION SECTOR



PROTECTING HABITATS FOR AN AVERAGE OF

\$ **2**

AN ACRE  CAN HELP STOP DEFORESTATION



INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY &
GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS
HAVE INCREASED
LAND STEWARDSHIP



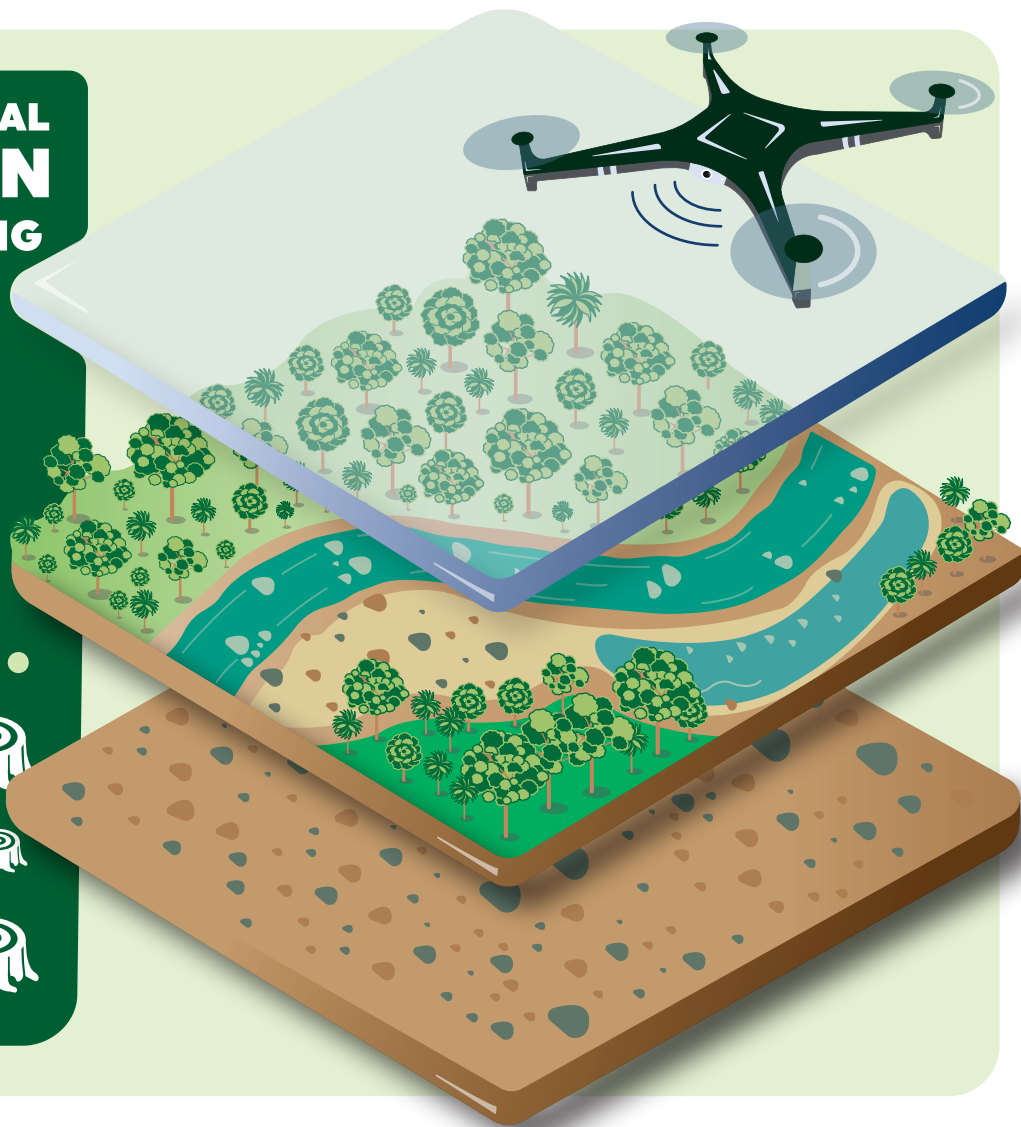
37
LAND
DECLARATIONS

27
COMMUNITY
PROTECTED AREAS



LOOKING AHEAD...

USING TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES IN
FOREST MONITORING
TOOLS HELPS
MAXIMIZE
ANTI-
DEFORESTATION
EFFORTS...



**...WHILE PROTECTING RAINFOREST NOT ONLY SAFEGUARDS
THE LUNGS OF THE PLANET & A MAJORITY OF
BIODIVERSITY, IT ALSO SAVES VAST CARBON SINKS
SUCH AS PEAT SWAMPS.**



EARTH DAY 2018

RAINFOREST TRUST HOSTS FIRST EARTH DAY OF SERVICE

Rainforest Trust celebrated Earth Day by launching two month-long initiatives, participating in several events across the country and hosting its first annual Earth Day of Service at its headquarters in Warrenton, VA.

"Celebrating Earth Day is an important tradition for Rainforest Trust," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman. "It gives us a great opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining our planet's critical ecosystems. It is also a chance for our team to participate locally in activities to protect the planet."

The two initiatives included an electronics recycling drive in partnership with ALC Recycling and a social media hashtag campaign with N3TWORK's Legendary: Games of Heroes. For the electronics recycling drive, Rainforest Trust collected unwanted products like flat-screen televisions, computers and cellphones at the Warrenton headquarters.

To help spread the message of conservation in honor of Earth Day, for every social media post and share from April 1-30 that included the #SeeTheRainforestFor hashtag, N3TWORK saved one acre of tropical habitat through Rainforest

Trust. This campaign was shared internationally with Rainforest Trust's local partners in the field, as well as with all the visitors to and participants in the organization's other Earth Day events.

N3TWORK raised \$75,000 by developing an opportunity for its gamers to earn virtual coins for Rainforest Trust. In the company's Legendary: Game of Heroes, it modified its system of awarding coins or tokens to appropriately represent Rainforest Trust's brand.

"Rainforest Trust is doing incredible work to protect the most threatened tropical forests and saving endangered wildlife," said Neil Young, founder and CEO of N3TWORK. "We are happy to do our part and support their efforts through a fun in-game event to celebrate Earth Day, where players can help raise funds and awareness for Rainforest Trust."

Rainforest Trust expanded its local environmental activities with its first full day of service on Saturday, April 21. In addition to running the electronics recycling drive for the day, participants picked up trash along Airlie Road where Rainforest Trust's offices are located as part of Virginia Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program.



Volunteers also conducted a plant installation project in partnership with Fauquier County Parks and Recreation at Rady Park in Warrenton, VA.

"We were incredibly pleased with how many people came out and volunteered with us for Earth Day," said Rainforest Trust Chief Outreach Officer Marc Ford. "We believe our efforts were both positive and impactful for our local community and our planet."

The Adopt-a-Highway team covered the entire three-mile stretch of road, gathering enough trash to fill nearly 15 trash bags, while the Rady Park team dug flower beds, planted trees and multiple flowers and then laid mulch to complete the project.

Volunteers were treated to a free picnic lunch provided through a \$500 PATH Foundation grant, as well as donations from Chick-fil-A, Giant, Great Harvest, Pizza Hut, Red Hot and Blue and Wegmans. There were also games, arts and crafts made with recycled materials and a forest fire presentation from the Warrenton Volunteer Fire Department in partnership with Virginia's Department of Forestry.

For the second year in a row, Rainforest Trust attended the Earth Day 50 Challenge, a summit comprising nearly 100 corporate, environmental, academic and philanthropic leaders held alongside EarthX in Dallas, Texas. Together, these two events ran from April 18-22.

At the Challenge, Rainforest Trust Chief Conservation Officer Dr. George Wallace participated in a panel entitled, "Forests: Safeguarding the Final 15%." He spoke about the importance of protecting the world's remaining intact forests and how nongovernmental conservation organizations and corporations should partner in a mutually beneficial manner to make it happen.

"Many of the world's largest corporations have global impacts that could be at least partially mitigated by locking arms with the conservation community and working together to protect these vital forest landscapes," Dr. Wallace said. "Intact forests hold vast numbers of species that, while not threatened now, will join the ranks of Earth's imperiled species if these forests become fragmented or lost altogether. Time is short, the stakes are high, but success is absolutely within reach."

Rainforest Trust also set up information booths and engaged thousands of environmentally conscious people at EarthX from April 20-22; several hundred people at the US Botanic Garden's 2018 Earth Day Open House on Friday, April 20; and several families at Airlie Conference Center's Earth Day on Sunday, April 22.

Rainforest Trust would like to thank all of its partners that made this Earth Day a great success!





EXPANDING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

ENDANGERED SPECIES CHOCOLATE

Endangered Species Chocolate and Rainforest Trust have been partners since 2016. This year, we have partnered to protect critical territory across West and Central Africa for the threatened Forest Elephant, while offering donors and customers the chance to win a year's supply of chocolate.

Endangered Species Chocolate has pledged to donate an acre of rainforest, up to 10,000 acres, for every entry submitted, as well as matching any additional donations that are made. Find out more here:

www.rainforesttrust.org/endangered-species-chocolate.

SAMBAZON A HUGE SUCCESS

Sambazon, a sustainable producer of açai juice, joined in partnership with Rainforest Trust for the first time this year. It launched a campaign to save 30 species in 30 days, and enlisted Rainforest Trust to provide an area worthy of protection. For every person who colored their hair purple, took a selfie and tagged it with @Sambazon and the hashtag

#PurpleForThePlanet, Sambazon protected 5 acres of rainforest. Running a full month from Earth Day on April 22 to World Biodiversity Day on May 22, the campaign raised enough money to protect 126,270 acres of Amazon rainforest for the Airo Pai Community Reserve in Peru, protecting many more than 30 species.

N3TWORK EARTH DAY CAMPAIGN

N3TWORK

One of our newest corporate partners, N3TWORK, a gaming and technology company, sponsored our #SeeTheRainforestFor campaign launched in honor of Earth Day 2018. For every photo shared with that hashtag, N3TWORK donated funding

to protect an acre of rainforest. In addition, it launched a special event on its game Legendary: Game of Heroes where players collected rainforest coins to raise money for Rainforest Trust. This resulted in total donations of \$75,000.



YOUNG CONSERVATION AWARD

RAINFOREST TRUST PRESENTS FIRST YOUNG CONSERVATION AWARD

Rainforest Trust recently honored one of its many young supporters with the organization's first Young Conservation Award. Evelyn Lepsch – an 8th grader at the Peabody School, an independent school in Charlottesville, VA – was tasked with coming up with a project that would make an impact on her local community. She chose to highlight Rainforest Trust's work.

"All of our students are required to undertake a project when they reach 8th grade, and we do our best to partner the children with local organizations so that they can see just how big of an impact they can have," said Victoria Young, Evelyn's teacher and supervisor on this project. "Evelyn expressed to me that she wanted to focus her project on big cats and conservation, so we sat down and did a bit of research on conservation organizations in Virginia, and that is when we stumbled upon Rainforest Trust," she explained.

Evelyn saw our logo and a photo of a Jaguar from one of our projects and knew that Rainforest Trust would be the perfect partner for her passions. A few email exchanges later and Evelyn and her grandparents were at our Warrenton, VA headquarters outlining her plan. As an artist, Evelyn knew she wanted to combine her love of art with her love for big cats, and so she chose to create a mural depicting a Cheetah and our conservation

efforts. Over the next few months, Evelyn worked on her masterpiece that would hang in the main entrance of the Peabody School, so that it would inspire students for years to come.

Once complete, Rainforest Trust was invited to attend a presentation being held by the 8th grade class, showcasing all of the students' projects. We were honored to have the opportunity to support such a passionate young conservationist, and after Evelyn gave a talk about her project, we were able to give a presentation about the importance of conservation work around the world.

It was during this presentation that Evelyn received her Young Conservation Award, and according to her mother, Nicole, she was both surprised and thrilled to receive it.

"Evelyn was so nervous to present her painting as it means a lot to her... ever since she was a small child, Evelyn has had an immense love for big cats and was so happy to be supported by an organization like Rainforest Trust," she said.

The event was a huge success for the 90 students that participated, and we here at Rainforest Trust could not be more proud to have someone so talented and passionate about conservation as a supporter!





KBA PARTNERSHIP

RAINFOREST TRUST JOINS KBA PARTNERSHIP

Rainforest Trust is pleased to announce that it is now an official partner of the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Partnership. This partnership, which was formed in 2016, brings together 12 leading nature conservation organizations to have a unified voice in identifying, mapping, monitoring and conserving important sites for biodiversity conservation.

"The KBA Partnership brings together the world's leading conservation organizations with their combined knowledge, partner networks, science and monitoring programs and financial resources to identify and conserve the planet's critically important areas," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman. "This is one of the most important initiatives for direct conservation action since the IUCN Red List was launched 50 years ago."

Rainforest Trust has long been focused on conserving areas that are recognized as critical for biodiversity conservation. In fact, the vast majority of our protected areas are either wholly or partially within confirmed KBAs, or are likely to be labeled as such once assessed under the new KBA Standard. This standard provides us with a common methodology for identifying priorities for conservation, and as we move forward we will strive to ensure that all our protected areas meet the KBA Standard.

Rainforest Trust will work with our local partners and other KBA Partnership organizations to support the formation of National Coordination Groups, so that national processes to identify, document and map KBAs can be efficiently implemented. We will also incorporate much of the KBA Standard into our selection process for determining where to focus our protected area funding. One of our biggest priorities is to fund areas that have significant proportions of the populations of highly threatened species of animals and plants.

"We look forward to working with the entire KBA Partnership to identify and monitor the integrity of the world's Key Biodiversity Areas," said Dr. George Wallace, Rainforest Trust's Chief Conservation Officer. "The KBA initiative literally provides us with a roadmap to the places we most want to protect - it really couldn't be more important, and that is exactly why we are making it a top priority in our conservation efforts."

The other 11 participating organizations include BirdLife International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Amphibian Survival Alliance, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Global Environment Facility, Global Wildlife Conservation, NatureServe, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wide Fund for Nature.



INDONESIA

MAHAKAM RIVER DOLPHIN

SAVING THE MAHAKAM RIVER DOLPHIN IN BORNEO

..... East Kalimantan, Indonesia

Rainforest Trust is proud to showcase a major project that will safeguard a Critically Endangered subpopulation of Irrawaddy Dolphins found only in the Mahakam River of Indonesian Borneo.

Indonesia's Mahakam River is home to a Critically Endangered population of around 80 Mahakam River Dolphins. Researchers are in the process of analyzing the DNA of this isolated population and believe that it may be genetically distinct from other populations of the Endangered Irrawaddy Dolphin found throughout South and Southeast Asia.

Although the Irrawaddy Dolphin has a large range from Bangladesh to Indonesia, there are only a few suitable habitats, including a few

shallow coastal waters, three large river systems, two brackish lagoons and one sound. The fragmented distribution of dolphin populations limits population sizes and makes them more susceptible to anthropogenic threats, resulting in Critically Endangered subpopulations in all three riverine habitats, one of the lagoons and the sound.

Despite the Mahakam River Dolphin being revered by the local communities, it is highly threatened by entanglement in gill nets and the destruction of riparian habitat. The proposed protected area consistently supports around 80 individuals, which is 80-100 percent of the population at various times, making it irreplaceable habitat.

YK-RASI

**REGION**

Asia & Oceania

**COUNTRY**

Indonesia

**ACRES**

299,085

**TREES SAVED**

~53,835,000

**THREATENED SPECIES**

43

**CO2 EQUIVALENT**

~11,611,000 mT CO2

SIZE: 299,085 ACRES PROJECT COST: \$383,796 PRICE PER ACRE: \$1.28

KEY SPECIES: BORNEAN ORANGUTAN (CR), MAHAKAM RIVER DOLPHIN (CR), SIAMESE CROCODILE (CR), MALAYSIAN GIANT TURTLE (EN), PROBOSCIS MONKEY (EN), STORM'S STORK (EN)

The proposed reserve will also protect other highly threatened species, including the Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile and Bornean Orangutan and the Endangered Malaysian Giant Turtle. It supports at least 298 bird species, 147 indigenous fish species, two crustacean species, 27 reptile species and five primate species.

In order to protect this unique and critical habitat, Rainforest Trust and local partner Yayasan Konservasi Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia seek \$383,796 to establish a 119,277-acre Aquatic Nature Reserve and a 179,808-acre Peat Swamp Conservation Area along the Mahakam River in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. This will protect a total of 299,085 acres.

"It is urgent that we protect this vanishing habitat as soon as possible - the survival of the Mahakam River Dolphin and other unique species depends on it," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman.

Due to the reverence in which local communities hold the dolphins, all 21 villages in the proposed Aquatic Nature Reserve have signed communal

agreements for protected area establishment. They also understand the importance of protecting these waterways as they provide the fish that they depend upon for sustenance.

Community involvement has proven to be critical for long-term sustainable protection, and Rainforest Trust works with local partners who integrate community engagement into their strategy for protected area establishment. This project is no different. Rainforest Trust's partner has been working with local villages since 2011, conducting community meetings to identify and map core areas and completing local government consultations. The Aquatic Nature Reserve and Peat Swamp Conservation Area will be established in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Forestry and Environment. These two contiguous protected areas will together form the Essential Ecosystem Middle Mahakam Area. To protect both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, these areas will be zoned with the participation of the local community.

UrgentProtection

Support the conservation work of Rainforest Trust and its partners around the world.



CONSERVATION ACTION FUND



ALL GIFTS DOUBLED!

\$1.98 - AVERAGE COST TO PROTECT AN ACRE OF TROPICAL HABITAT

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.



Please use the enclosed envelope, or visit RainforestTrust.org/donate to make a donation