

Rainforest Trust Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 25, 2019; 9 AM-5 PM

1880, 1 Nanson Road, Level 3, Singapore

Present: Dr. Eric Veach (Chair), Edith McBean (Vice Chair), Sally Davidson (Treasurer); Dr. Wayt Thomas (Secretary); John Mitchell (Chair Emeritus); Eric Goode, Pat Koval, Geoffrey Chen, Jeffrey Zack, and Kim Stewart.

Regrets: Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, Robert Giles, Ann Kaupp; Dr. E.O. Wilson.

Staff: Dr. Paul Salaman (CEO) & Angela Yang.

1. Approval of Minutes

The Board Minutes from 23rd September were unanimously approved by the Board with the small amendment to include “Regrets” for Board members unable to attend.

2. Proposed Advisory Council Members

The Board unanimously approved the reelection of Dr. Wayt Thomas, Edith McBean, Geo Chen and Pat Koval for a second term of three years as Board Directors. The Board unanimously elected the following Board Officers:

- Chair: Dr Eric Veach
- Vice-Chair: Edith McBean
- Secretary: Dr Wayt Thomas
- Treasurer: Sally Davidson

The Committee Members remain unchanged:

3. Partner Resolutions for 2019

The Board unanimously approved the following resolutions for the expenditure of funds received from donations by individuals and foundations for support of the following partner organizations in 2019:

- To the **International Conservation Fund of Canada**: For programs to conserve endangered species and tropical ecosystems of high biodiversity value, up to the sum of \$500,000.
- To the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**: For programs to conserve endangered species and identify Key Biodiversity Areas, up to the sum of \$100,000.
- To **Fundación Jocotoco**, Ecuador: To conserve wild birds and their habitats and to support the general administration of Fundación Jocotoco, up to the sum of \$500,000.
- To **Fundación ProAves**, Colombia: To conserve endangered biodiversity and support reserve management as well as ecotourism developments of ProAves, up to the sum of \$500,000.
- To **Rainforest Trust Australia**, Australia: For programs to conserve the tropical ecosystems of high biodiversity and expand fundraising efforts, up to the sum of \$20,000.
- To **Rainforest Trust UK**: For programs to conserve the tropical ecosystems of high biodiversity value and expand fundraising efforts, up to the sum of \$20,000.

4. Calendar of 2019-2021 Board meetings

- **17-18th May 2019**: AGM at International Conservation House, Airlie. **Please arrive before 3 pm on Friday 17th May for partner presentations from 3-5 PM followed by a reception.**
- **22nd September 2019**: **Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge**

MA.

- 29th February 2020: Location to be decided (West Coast).
- 22-23rd May 2020: Orientation and AGM at Rainforest Trust offices, Warrenton, VA.
- 27th September 2020: Board meeting in New York City.
- 19th Feb-1st March 2021: Board meeting in **Latin America**.
- 21-22nd May 2021: Orientation and AGM at Rainforest Trust offices, Warrenton, VA.
- 26th September 2021: Board meeting in New York City.

5. Review of Committee reports

The Board reviewed and approved the following three Committee reports:

- Investment Committee Report for Q3 and Q4 2018.
- Draft minutes of the Conservation Committee Meeting, January 14, 2019.
- Minutes of Audit & Finance Committee, November 28, 2018.

6. Institutional Report from the CEO

The last quarter of 2018 was an incredibly busy and successful time at Rainforest Trust. At the end of the year, the designation of the Oku Community Reserves brought us to the milestone of over 20 million acres saved! With another 25 million acres in the pipeline, we remain on target to meet our goal of 50 million acres saved in 2020.

We raised a total of nearly \$49 million in 2018 – nearly \$26 million without the large stock gift we received in the fall - and we are already off to a strong start in 2019, with gifts totaling over \$1 million in the first month. Our first-ever Species Legacy Auction, held on December 8, 2018 in conjunction with our 30th Anniversary celebration, not only raised funds to support research and ongoing management of areas we help protect, but also garnered significant media attention.

We continued efforts to foster Rainforest Trust’s relationships within the international conservation community, by actively participating in the Key Biodiversity Area Executive Committee and assisting the IUCN US National Committee’s Membership & Communications sub-committee.

Building on the success of our annual Partners Retreats, we launched the Rainforest Trust Fellows and Guardians programs to elevate the work of these often-overlooked conservation practitioners and deepen our relationship with our partner organizations and further support their on-the-ground efforts. Presently we have 132 Guardians and 75 Fellows from 32 different organizations in 22 countries for a total of 207 enrolled.

The IV Rainforest Trust International Conservation Partners Retreat is scheduled for the week of 12 May, the week immediately before the Board meeting. This year the focus will be on the Conservation Fellows.

1. Creation of a Bonobo Reserve in the Congo

Rainforest Trust and local partner Amis des Bonobos du Congo seek \$441,233 to create the 93,907-acre Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve. This strategic reserve will secure long-term protection of great apes and other threatened species dependent on the region’s forests. **The Board unanimously approved the project, but would like to learn more about the Bonobo population here.**

2. Expanding the Onepene Refuge for Amphibians in Ghana

Rainforest Trust and local partner Herp Conservation Ghana seek \$339,596 to protect, restore and manage 1,319 acres of the Togo-Volta highlands, some of the last remaining forests in the Dahomey Gap, a savannah corridor separating the upper and lower Guinea forest. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

3. Community Empowerment to Protect Rainforests in Liberia

Rainforest Trust and local partner SCNL seek \$677,063 to help the Tonglay and Normon clans of the Upper Guinea Forest Biodiversity Hotspot establish two community forests across 318,520 acres between the Gola Forest National Park (GFNP) and the Foya proposed protected area. These community forests, when established, will link the two parks and will almost surround GFNP. **The Board decided to move this project to the next Board meeting in the knowledge the Africa Conservation Director will be visiting the project and partner in April and provide more information on the budget and what the community members are allowed or prohibited from undertaking in the proposed Protected Area.**

4. Connecting Reserves and Indigenous Lands in Bolivia

Rainforest Trust and local partner WCS-Bolivia seek \$219,997 to create the 1,356,272-acre Los Santos Reyes Protected Area in the Beni grasslands of Bolivia. This project will also collaborate with the nearby Reyes Municipal Government to create a municipal protected area already proposed but not legalized. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

5. Safeguarding an Imperiled Andean Amphibian Hotspot

Rainforest Trust and local partner Fundación ProAves seek \$246,379 to declare the 7,344-acre Munchique-Mirabilis Conservation Corridor. This proposed Regional National Park will safeguard a major wildlife corridor in the Chocó of southwest Colombia. The park, on the upper Pacific slope of the Western Cordillera in the Cauca Department, will connect the existing Munchique National Natural Park to the Mirabilis-Swarovski nature reserve and Tambito nature reserve. This action will consolidate a 122,647-acre biological corridor. The proposed park will also envelop a main access road to Munchique National Natural Park. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

6. Purchasing Threatened Rainforests in the Ecuadorean Amazon

Rainforest Trust and its local partner Fundación Sumac Muyu (FSM) seek \$33,000 to expand the Bigal River Biological Reserve (BRBR) in northeastern Ecuador by 60 acres. The reserve is in the buffer zone of the Sumaco Napo–Galeras National Park (SNGNP), within the Sumaco Biosphere Reserve (RBS). **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

7. Protecting Endemic Amphibians in the Técpán Mountains

Rainforest Trust and local partner Instituto para el Manejo y Conservación de la Biodiversidad A.C. (INMACOB) seek \$15,723 to establish a 19,768-acre community conservation area to protect endemic species of the Técpán mountains and serve as a Jaguar corridor. The local partner has an agreement with

three ejidos (land farmed communally under an official agreement) to start work. After delineation, CONANP (the Mexican National Commission of Protected Areas) will certify the reserve as an Area Voluntarily Destined to Conservation (ADVC). **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

8. Protecting a Unique Cloud Forest in Veracruz, Mexico

Rainforest Trust and local partner Pronatura Veracruz seek \$59,210 to protect and manage 1,000 acres of habitat for three Critically Endangered salamanders. The proposed Coatepec Protected Area is on the windward slopes of the Cofre de Perote Mountain, in the central part of Veracruz, Mexico, at the southern end of the Sierra Madre Oriental in confluence with the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

9. Purchasing Palm Rainforests in Puerto Rico

Rainforest Trust and local partner Para la Naturaleza seek \$291,610 to purchase 112 acres of critical amphibian habitat in the southeast Sierra de Cayey, between Ulpiano Casal Natural Protected Area and Carite State Forest. Securing this site will connect two protected areas and enable 10 acres of disturbed land restoration. This restoration will enhance the habitat of at least 10 endangered species. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

10. Saving the “Asian Unicorn” in the Greater Annamites

Rainforest Trust and local partner Asian Arks seek \$1,755,925 to develop an innovative, sustainable model for conservation that declares the Khoun Xe Nong Ma Provincial Protected Area (KXNM PPA) as an NPA and establishes mechanisms to support its long-term protection. The KXNM PPA covers approximately 131,000 acres of the Upper Xebang Fai – Laos Key Biodiversity Area in the Annamite Mountains of central Laos, and abuts Laving Laveun National Protected Area (NPA).

The partner’s approach includes well-equipped, trained patrol teams and community snare removal teams. The project will also work towards infrastructure development to support sustained management and support of the protected area by engaging communities and providing local employment. Revenue-generating activities, including ecotourism, will support operations that use state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed biodiversity monitoring methods to meet conservation targets. This will begin a long-term commitment to protecting KXNM in partnership with the Government of Laos, other stakeholders and local communities. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

11. Saving a Stronghold for Tigers and Asian Elephants

Rainforest Trust and local partner Wildlife Conservation Society - Malaysia (WCS-Malaysia) seek \$189,174 to designate the Panti PRF, the nearby Seluyut PRF and adjacent corridor areas as Panti National Park and Seluyut National Park. This landscape is not connected to other large, contiguous forest blocks in Malaysia, making the project critical to maintaining the existing connectivity in the Endau-Rompin Landscape, one of four forest complexes that form the Central Spine Forest of Peninsular Malaysia, and one of the only three Critically Endangered Malayan Tiger source sites in Malaysia. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

12. Safeguarding Snow Leopard Lakes of the Himalayas

Rainforest Trust and local partner KTK-BELT seek \$877,180 to purchase 917 acres of private land above the village of Simbuk in Nepal's Tamur Valley and Watershed Key Biodiversity Area. The area is a connecting landscape between the Papung Village Development Council, Makalu-Barun National Park, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area and the Lumbasumba Conservation Area (slated for declaration in 2019 with Rainforest Trust support). The land parcels would come along with traditional usage rights acres, increasing the project's total acreage to 1,496.5. This project will block any potential road construction into the lake region and the larger Red Panda habitat below Topkegol, a yak outpost. This purchase opens the door to declaring the entire 85,926.5 acres as a protected area, the ultimate outcome of this project. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

13. Strategic Land Purchase to Protect Spoon-billed Sandpipers

Rainforest Trust and local partner Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST) seek \$380,828 to purchase approximately 19.5 acres at Pak Thale, a coastal area of Thailand's Inner Gulf dominated by salt pans. A Key Biodiversity Area, the Inner Gulf is Thailand's most critical habitat for coastal shorebird abundance and diversity, and the Pak Thale-Laem Phak Bia Flyway has been prioritized by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. This property will be managed to benefit both the shorebirds and the surrounding communities. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

14. Saving Endangered Gibbons in Vietnam

Rainforest Trust and local partner Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Vietnam seek \$165,000 to designate 105,753 acres in Kon Plong as a Strict Nature Reserve. This reserve will secure a strategic forest corridor in the Annamite Mountains that will connect Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve and other protected areas in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia with the Kon Ka Kinh – Kon Cha Rang forest complex to the south. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

15. A Flagship Conservation Campaign to Save the Chocó

Following a five-month land study, supported by a Rapid Feasibility Award, and working in conjunction with the regional government and indigenous communities, Rainforest Trust local partner Fundación ProAves are seeking \$7,065,945 to create the single largest protected area in the Chocó hotspot of Colombia and Ecuador. The 683,310-acre Regional Natural Park, including the Tángaras and Gorrión de Andivia Nature Reserves of ProAves, will span the greatest elevation range from lowland rainforest near sea level up to páramo at over 13,000 feet. As part of this project, 16 properties that cover 38,352 acres will be purchased to buffer against colonization on the western and southern boundaries. Furthermore, the regional government has requested that 634,164-acres of unoccupied state land be incorporated into the proposed regional park. When completed, this protected area complex will stretch over 100 kilometers from the Baudo Mountains in the heart of Colombia's Chocó department to the highest peaks of the Western Cordillera, encompassing the watershed of the Rio Atrato on which the majority of Chocó's poor rural population depends. **The Board unanimously approved the project and in a special session on March 11th, 2019 at 7:30-8.00 PM unanimously ratified the decision following positive reviews by seven Advisory Council reviewers.**

Rainforest Trust Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 18, 2019; 9 AM-5 PM.

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

Present: Dr. Eric Veach (Chair), Edith McBean (Vice Chair), Sally Davidson (Treasurer); Dr. Wayt Thomas (Secretary); John Mitchell (Chair Emeritus); Dr. Thomas Lovejoy; Eric Goode; Pat Koval; Geoffrey Chen; Jeffrey Zack; Ann Kaupp; and Kim Stewart.

Regrets: Robert Giles, Dr. E.O. Wilson

Staff: Dr. Paul Salaman (CEO); Dr. Robert Ridgely (President); Patricia Munoz-Chernitsky (CFO); Leslie VanSant (Chief Philanthropy Officer); Angela Yang (Chief Conservation Officer); Marc Ford (Chief Outreach Officer); Mark Gruin (Sr. Director of Conservation Partnerships); Naomi Cossack (HR & Recruiting Manager); Michelle Husko (Sr. Manager Data & Research); Beth Bush (Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving); Austin Harter (Digital Media Director); Alex Scott Antram (Conservation Outreach Manager); Ethan Freedman (Sr. Media Production Officer); Madison Lemelin (Conservation Outreach Officer); Kira Seibel (Marketing Manager); Bryan Curran (Africa Conservation Officer); Karl Didier (Science and Monitoring Director); Liz Howard (Executive Assistant to the CEO).

1. Approval of Minutes

The Board minutes from Feb. 2019 were unanimously approved.

2. Proposed Advisory Council Membership

The Board agreed that no change to the bylaws was needed in order to increase the number of Advisory Council members. The Board also voted to remove term limits for the Advisory Council.

The Board approved Dr. Sally Lahm for membership on the Advisory Council.

3. Committee Reports

The Board reviewed and approved the following Committee reports:

- Investment Committee for Q1 2019.
- Audit and Finance Committee meetings of April 18 and April 29. The Chair thanked Patricia for her hard work to ensure a clean audit.

4. Calendar of 2019-2021 Board Meetings

- 21st September 2019: Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge MA.
- 29th February 2020: Location to be decided (West Coast).
- 22-23rd May 2020: Orientation and AGM at Rainforest Trust office.
- 27th September 2020: Board meeting at Rainforest Trust office.
- 19th Feb-1st Marc 2021: Board meeting in South Africa.
- 21-22nd May 2021: Orientation and AGM at Rainforest Trust office.

- 26th September 2021: Board meeting at Rainforest Trust office.

5. Institutional Report from the CEO

The first quarter of 2019 has focused on setting the course for the rest of the year. In late March, senior staff members gathered for a Strategic Planning Retreat in Thomasville, Ga., followed by a daylong planning session at our offices. We have ambitious goals – to help protect 30% of the planet by 2030. Our efforts will be guided by science; the Conservation Team is working on metrics. However, more staff input is still needed before the plan can be finalized.

Much of the first quarter of the year has been taken up with the issue of office space. After several months of searching for a suitable office in the area, on April 29th we signed a lease agreement for space in the Vint Hill area. While there is considerable cost associated with the move and new space setup, as well as an increase in monthly rent, overall we see the move as a positive one for the organization. Importantly, after the CEO brought the entire team out for a tour, staff responded very favorably to the new location.

In order to reflect our new focus on quality over quantity in our partnerships and new projects, we have drafted a new partnership agreement. The new agreement has been looked over by an attorney.

The Board participated in a conference call with the auditor.

6. Project Proposals

1. Expanding Ecuador's Dracula Reserve

Rainforest Trust and its local partner, Fundación EcoMinga, seek \$178,296 USD to extend the Dracula Reserve by 244 acres. This expansion is a critical part of a planned protected corridor between different parts of the Dracula Reserve system. Eventually, this project will help five landowners obtain land titles and then purchase all five parcels from them. *The intention is for the reserve to be entirely funded by a new global youth organization founded and spearheaded by Advisory Council Member Callie Broaddus, a wildlife photographer and climate activist. The new organization "Reserva: The Youth Land Trust," has a bold and actionable plan to save endangered species, protect critical rainforest habitat, and empower a generation of young people who care deeply about bringing our planet back into balance.* **The Board unanimously approved the project. The Board expressed enthusiasm for the goal of creating the world's first protected area funded entirely by young people, and is eager to support Callie in her efforts.**

2. Establishing a Village Forest in Indonesia

Rainforest Trust seeks \$396,944 to assist local partner Barito River Initiative for Nature Conservation and Communities (BRINCC) in designating a new 65,850-acre Hutan Desa in the Barito River watershed, in the highlands of Central Kalimantan in Indonesian Borneo. BRINCC, along with its partners, will build the needed capacity to support the local communities in implementing, protecting, and managing the area. Management will include protection from outside actors in addition to regulations for sustainable use by the communities. Funds generated from sustainable forest resource use and through Plan

Vivo certification will fund the long-term management and protection of the area. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

7. Partnership Agreement

Approval of the proposed new partnership agreement was deferred, pending review by the Conservation Committee. The committee will directly communicate with Rainforest Trust's attorney, who reviewed the agreement.

Minutes of Rainforest Trust Board Meeting Saturday, September 21, 2019

Louis Agassiz Museum of Comparative Zoology, 26 Oxford St, Cambridge, MA

Attending: Dr. Eric Veach (Chair), Edith McBean (Vice Chair), Sally Davidson (Treasurer); Dr. Wayt Thomas (Secretary); John Mitchell (Chair Emeritus); Pat Koval; Geoffrey Chen (via Zoom); Jeffrey Zack; Ann Kaupp; Dr. Robert Ridgely (President); Mark Gruin (Acting CEO); Patricia Munoz-Chernitsky (CFO); Leslie VanSant (CPO); Angela Yang (CCO); Karl Didier (Science and Monitoring Director); James Lewis (Africa Conservation Director); Elizabeth Howard (Executive Assistant to the CEO).

Regrets: Robert Giles, Kim Stewart, Dr. E.O. Wilson, Eric Goode, Dr. Thomas Lovejoy

I. Minutes of Rainforest Trust Board Meeting: May 18, 2019

The Board approved the minutes of the May 2019 AGM.

II. Calendar of 2019-2021 Board meetings

The Board agreed to keep the date of the February meeting, and requested that Rainforest Trust staff check into whether Eric Goode would be willing to host the meeting in New York or Ojai. Committee meetings will be scheduled 3-4 weeks ahead of the Board meeting.

III. Committee Reports

The Board reviewed and approved the following Committee reports:

A. Investment Committee Report for Q1 2019

- 1. Conservation Committee – The Board reviewed and approved recommendations from Rainforest Trust Conservation staff, which have been previously discussed by the Conservation Committee. **The Board approved the recommendation that if a project is deemed likely by the CCO to exceed the proposed budget by an amount that is not material, the CCO will recommend an accepted level of variance of the amount to be approved. Projects with variance must be reported to the Board at the next meeting.**
 2. **The Board approved the recommendation give the CEO extraordinary authority to increase the amount of funding to \$20,000 when in his or her judgement, and on recommendation from the CCO, an increase is justified. The CEO will inform the Board of any cases where discretion was exercised for this purpose. Any variance in excess of the discretionary amount (\$20,000) will require the approval of the Board.**

- **The Board approved a new agreement with EWT for the Soutpansberg project, including an increased budget for land purchase, removing the partner funding requirement and forgiving the past-due amount from the budget approved at February 2017 meeting.**
3. The Board agreed that the criteria for Marine Protected Area proposals were reasonable. These criteria are:
 - The site regularly holds $\geq 0.5\%$ of the global population size AND ≥ 5 reproductive units of a CR or EN species during one or more stages of its life cycle; quantitative evidence that the site qualifies under this criterion must be presented within the Concept Note
 - The project must include the creation of an adequate and achievable management plan that includes no-take zones
 - The project should include a terrestrial component or be an extension of an established terrestrial PA (IUCN Ridge to Reef)
 - The project must include evidence of a realistic plan for sustainable financing
 - The project implementer ideally will have experience in MPA management and capacity to sustain protection
 - There should be a component of community engagement (locally-managed marine area), where appropriate.
 4. Criteria for supporting Intact Landscape Projects: **The Board recommended a change** (in bold) to requirements to clarify that protected areas that represent intact landscapes “Must not have any roads, unless access is strictly controlled (only for protected area **management** and/or tourism); where applicable, applications must present a completed road management plan that includes strict access & enforcement actions, or must outline the activities to complete such a plan during project implementation.”
 5. Engagement in Existing Protected Areas: The Board approved four of the six proposed new criteria, but rejected inclusion of “paper parks” (i.e., existing protected areas) and protected areas that do not prioritize conservation, out of concern that these represent a fundamental change in our conservation strategy. **The Board approved a motion to hold a more formal review and extended discussion of this issue at the next Board meeting.**
 6. **The Board approved a modified recommendation to rebrand the Sustainability Fund as Guardians Fund for ongoing protection of PAs and stipulate that 50% of the funds that come in can be spent right away, and the other 50% held in the Sustainability Fund. The fund would be counted quarterly.**
- B. C. Audit and Finance Committee**
The Board approved the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee to raise the capitalization threshold to \$2000 The Board agreed that the A&F Committee will review budget in late Nov.-early Dec., then call special telephone Board meeting to approve it before the end of the year.
- C. Philanthropy Committee –**
1. The Committee recommended approving the Gift Acceptance Policy with amendments.
- D. Outreach Committee:**
2. A new strategy and priorities for department are needed. The committee will put together recommendations for a strategic plan.
- E. Search Committee:** The Search Committee will have a series of meetings to approve the CEO profile and assess candidates. Six to eight candidates will be identified and then these will be narrowed down to a shortlist.
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IV. Institutional Report

- A. The International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC) agreement expired in July; a new agreement is needed.
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V. Philanthropy Report

VI. Project Proposals

1. Saving the Disappearing Grasslands of Cambodia – Rainforest Trust and local partner WCS-Cambodia seek \$389,086 to designate the new 75,515-acre Bakan Protected Landscape. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

3. Conserving Biodiverse Protected Areas in the Western Ghats - Rainforest Trust and WCS-India seek \$192,631 to designate a new 148,263-acre protected landscape in the unique Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada landscape. **The Board unanimously approved the project, but requested more details on the budget.**

4. Safeguarding Nan Thar Island for Myanmar’s Endangered Shorebirds - Rainforest Trust and local partner Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) seek \$274,217 to designate the new 8,916-acre Nan Thar Island Wildlife Sanctuary, just off the northwest coast of Myanmar in the Mayyu River estuary. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

5. Protecting Belize’s Critical Maya Forest Corridor - Rainforest Trust and partner Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) seek \$4,800,000 to protect 25,000 acres of the Maya Forest Corridor, linking the Labouring Creek Jaguar Sanctuary and the Bermudian Landing Community Baboon Sanctuary. **The board unanimously approved the project.**

6. Safeguarding the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest by Expanding REGUA - Rainforest Trust and local partner Reserva Ecologica Guapiaçu - Brazil seek \$192,019 USD to expand the REGUA reserve by 300.5 acres by purchasing three properties that have been negotiated already. These titled parcels provide connectivity among a complex of protected parcels within the reserve. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

7. Saving Ecuador’s Largest Remaining Corridor of Choco Forest – Rainforest Trust and partner Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco seek \$3,658,740 to expand Canandé Reserve by 7,966 acres. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

8. Expanding Ecuador’s Dracula Reserve - Rainforest Trust and partner Fundación EcoMinga seek \$475,618 to extend the Dracula Reserve by 978 acres. This expansion is a critical part of a planned protected corridor between different parts of the Dracula Reserve system. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

9. Protecting the Banded Ground-cuckoo in Ecuador – Rainforest Trust and partner Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales (FCAT) seek \$276,077 to purchase 398 acres in the Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena Hotspot. Previous strategic purchases secured the most critical properties to protect this ecosystem, where FCAT has created the 405-acre Amigos del Bosque Reserve. This proposed land

purchase is a critical step toward the creation of a corridor between the Mache Chindul National Ecological Reserve and the Cube Lagoon Conservation Area, a Ramsar site, increasing security of the reserves including the National Ecological Reserve and protecting against land encroachment from local communities. **The Board did not approve the project; it may be re-presented pending results of a Rapid Feasibility Assessment.**

10. Protecting Endemic Birds in Angola's Kumbira Forest - Rainforest Trust and local partner Fundação Kissama seek \$400,741 to secure 1,250 acres of habitat along the Kumbira Forest escarpment. The purchased land will be managed as a private reserve – the first private protected area created by a local NGO in Angola - with the possibility of expanding the protected area in the future. **The Board unanimously approved the project with the caveats that the partner first receive an RFA to have a Board meeting, get an audit done, and have a lawyer check registered deeds to ensure the partner can legally purchase and manage land.**

11. Creating Cote d'Ivoire's First Marine Protected Area – Rainforest Trust and partner Conservation des Especies Marines (CEM) seek \$610,502 to establish the Rainforest Trust-supported 1,754,448-acre Grand-Béréby Marine Protected Area (MPA) and fill the conservation gap adjacent to the Dodo River Community-Managed Natural Reserve. This would create Côte d'Ivoire's first MPA near Grand-Béréby, San Pedro Region. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

12. Expanding Gabon's Plateau Bateke National Park – Rainforest Trust and partner Gabon National Parks Agency (ANPN) seek \$725,296 to secure an additional 344,460 acres north of Plateau Batéké National Park. This expansion is the first step in an ambitious plan to protect 30% of Gabon's land and sea. It would increase the total size of the Park to 848,612 acres and add a woodier savanna Key Biodiversity Area that harbors biome-restricted species. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

13. Securing a Critical Wildlife Corridor in Kenya's Northern Rangelands – Rainforest Trust and local partner Northern Rangelands Trust seek \$1,855,829 to establish four new community conservancies to secure the connection between Marsabit National Park and Meru National Park. Comprising a total of 3.2 million acres, the conservancies will operate in collaboration with local communities, provide economic opportunities, reduce human-wildlife conflict and ensure sustainable habitat management. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

14. Empowering Communities to Protect Rainforests in Liberia – Rainforest Trust and local partner Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) seek \$738,614 to engage four local clans in the establishment of five Community Forests across 354,350 acres in the Upper Guinea Forest Hotspot. This increase in protected lands will maximize connectivity between existing protected areas while also creating a buffer around Gola Forest National Park. **The board unanimously approved the project.**

15. Securing One of Madagascar's Last Bastions for Biodiversity – Rainforest Trust and local partner Madagascar Primate Study and Research Group (GERP) seek \$333,502 to create the 4,436-acre Efatsy Protected Area. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

Minutes of Rainforest Trust Extraordinary Board Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2019, 7:30 PM

Rainforest Trust Office, 7200 Lineweaver Road, Suite 100, Warrenton, VA 20187 + Zoom

Attending: Eric Veach (Chair), Edith McBean (Vice Chair), Sally Davidson (Treasurer), Wayt Thomas (Secretary), John Mitchell (Chair Emeritus), Ann Kaupp (Member), Robert Giles (Member), Kim Stewart (Member), Jeff Zack (Member), Geo Chen (Member), Robert Ridgely (President), Mark Gruin (CEO), Angela Yang (Chief Conservation Officer), Leslie VanSant (Chief Philanthropy Officer), David Dellatore (Asia-Pacific Conservation Manager), James Lewis (Africa Conservation Director), Karl Didier (Science and Monitoring Director), Liz Howard (Executive Assistant to the CEO).

Regrets: E.O. Wilson, Eric Goode, Thomas Lovejoy, Pat Koval

I. Board Update by the CEO

II. Proposed Projects

A. Creating the First Blue-throated Hillstar Reserve

Rainforest Trust and partner Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco seek \$556,750 to create the 616-acre Blue-throated Hillstar Reserve. **The Board unanimously approved the project.**

B. Securing Vital Black Rhino Habitat in Kenya

Rainforest Trust and Lewa seek \$7,320,000 to purchase a 4,625-acre in-holding within Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and bring property fenced within the conservancy under permanent protection. **The Board unanimously approved \$5.4 million for the project, with \$2.25 million of that total coming from partner funds.** Edith McBean, who serves on Lewa's board, recused herself from voting and left the call during the voting process.

III. Proposed Project Cancellations

The Board voted unanimously to cancel the following projects:

A. WCS – Malaysia: Saving a stronghold for Tigers and Asian Elephants

B. BRINCC: Establishing a Village Forest in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

C. PRCF: Connecting Refuge for Endangered Species in Gia Lai Highlands (Vietnam)

D. Proyecto Mono Tocón: Protection for the San Martin Titi

E. IUCN: Establishment of Kien Luong Karst Species & Landscape Conservation Area

F. ProAves: Safeguarding an Imperiled Andean Amphibian Hotspot

G. Fundación Jocotoco: Protecting the Vital Mashpi River Basin Through Land Acquisition

H. Lewa Conservancy: Land purchase to expand the LEWA Reserve, Kenya As a Lewa Board member, Edith McBean abstained from voting and left the call during the vote.

I. Gorongosa Project: Increasing Protection for the Greater Gorongosa Landscape - Expanding Mozambique's Premier National Park

J. TOP - Support Wildlife Protection Units that will monitor and protect the forests in the areas of Jambi I, Jambi II, Jambi III & secure the logging concessions in the Bukit Tiga Puluh Ecosystem