

Rainforest Trust Names Newly Discovered Species of *Hyloscirtus* Frog in Ecuador in Honor of Film/TV Creator and Conservationist Seth MacFarlane

WARRENTON, Va., Sept. xx, 2022– A newly discovered frog species on the edge of the Amazon basin in Ecuador has just been named by [Rainforest Trust](#) in honor of film/TV creator and conservationist Seth MacFarlane. The article describing the newly discovered frog, *Hyloscirtus sethmacfarlanei*, was [published today](#) in the interdisciplinary journal PeerJ.

The frog was discovered during a botanical expedition to the top of Cerro Mayordomo—a poorly-known mountain on the edge of the Amazon basin in Ecuador. While scaling up a steep hillside covered in cloud forest, an observant team member spotted the frog. The amphibian was spectacular—nearly four inches long, and black with bright red spots, resting on a leaf. As he did not recognize the species, he carried it back to camp to be further examined. By the time he had returned down the mountain, carrying the frog, his arm was tingly, and he suspected the species produced a mild neurotoxin. Vibrant color patterns are often warning signs in the amphibian world, and this frog was no exception.

An international team of researchers confirmed the animal was new to science. The female is black with red spots; advanced juveniles are black with yellow-orange spots, and small juveniles are mostly bright yellow with black suffusion. The frog is a relative of *Hyloscirtus princecharlesi*, but is clearly distinguishable as a separate species.

Rainforest Trust chose to name this stunning frog in honor of Rainforest Trust supporter Seth MacFarlane, American writer, director, producer, actor, artist, musician and conservationist. Though he is primarily known for his award-winning work in animation and comedy, Seth is also passionate about conservation and working to halt deforestation of rainforest habitat.

“It seemed perfect to name this frog, with its playful polka dots juxtaposed with its most likely threatened status, after Seth who is known more for his comedy than his dedication to science and conservation,” said Rainforest Trust CEO James Deutsch, Ph.D.

Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse places in the world. Rainforests and cloud forests in Ecuador harbor more than 600 known species of frogs, and there are still many species waiting to be discovered.

The scientific expedition that found the frog was led by long-time Rainforest Trust partner [Fundacion Ecominga](#) as part of their ongoing research and work to catalog and protect the many species of the Andes. Cerro Mayordomo, where the new frog was found, is now protected by EcoMinga’s Machay Reserve. At least six other new species of frogs were discovered on this same mountain.

To learn more about the Rainforest Trust, visit www.rainforesttrust.org.

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About Rainforest Trust

Since 1988, Rainforest Trust has been safeguarding imperiled tropical habitats and saving endangered species by establishing protected areas in partnership with local organizations and communities. With its partners, Rainforest Trust has safeguarded more than 41 million acres of vital habitat across Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Rainforest Trust is a nonprofit organization that relies upon the generous support of the public to successfully implement its important conservation action. The organization is proud of earning a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Learn more about the work of Rainforest Trust by visiting www.RainforestTrust.org, Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook.

About Fundacion EcoMinga

[Fundacion EcoMinga](#) (EcoMinga Foundation) is an Ecuadorian foundation with international sponsors, dedicated to the conservation of the unique foothill forests, cloud forests, and alpine grasslands (“paramo”) of the Andes, especially those on the edge of the Amazon basin in east-central Ecuador and those on the super-wet western Andean slopes of the Choco region in northwest Ecuador.