

Expanding Our Reach

2022 Annual Report



RAINFOREST
TRUST®

Our Reach

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Red Ruffed Lemur | ERIC USSELE

Letter from Our CEO

For Rainforest Trust, 2022 brought extraordinary growth in impact against the backdrop of a challenging fundraising climate.

We awarded \$61 million in new grants to organizations across the tropics and subtropics to support the creation or expansion of protected and conserved areas critical to saving species from extinction, safeguarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and fighting climate change. When completed, these projects will protect an astonishing 13,985,590 acres and 1,341 IUCN Red List threatened species and lock up 1.5 billion metric tons of CO₂ equivalents, putting us on track to reach our 2025 goals.

Our ongoing projects performed well, too, with over 6 million acres in new protected or conserved areas legally designated and protected (an area the size of Vermont), the third highest amount in our history. Some of the irreplaceable ecosystems saved include critical areas in the Amazon rainforests, mangroves in Cuba, miombo woodlands in Zambia and coral reefs of Indonesia.

Our fundraising plateaued and dipped from 2021 as falling markets and soaring inflation impacted giving. Nevertheless, together you contributed \$39 million, the third highest value in our history—and we are deeply thankful to every donor who sacrificed to support our mission.

We were able to further strengthen our board and staff—the drivers of our future impact. With board rotation chipping in, we welcomed four new members with diverse and stellar backgrounds from finance to technology, journalism to conservation. And with our staff now fully remote, we were able to recruit global experts based in the field to develop new projects and programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

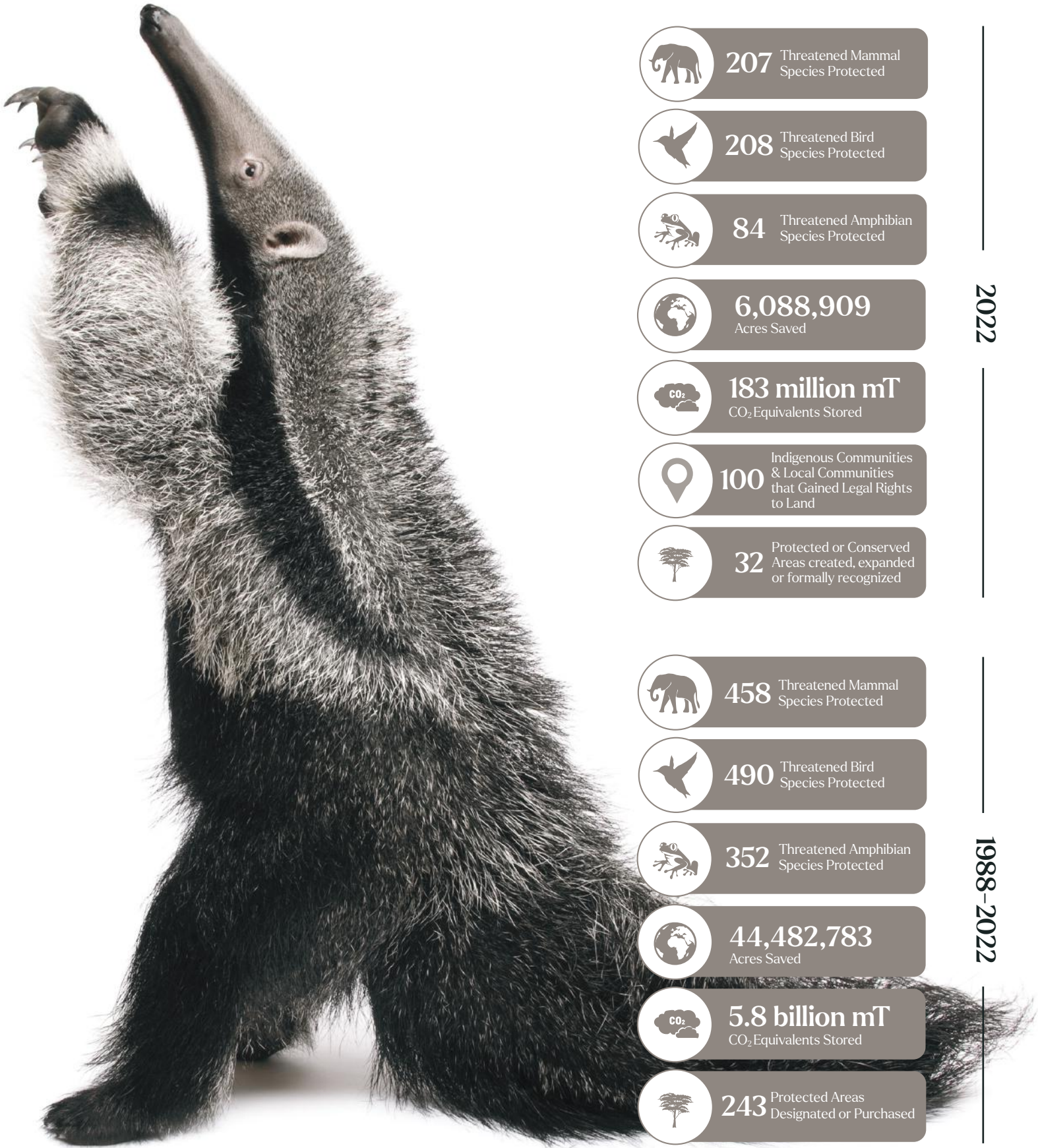
As the year drew to a close, we were cheered by two pieces of good news that inspired us to be optimistic about the future and challenged us to continue to grow our impact. First, 196 nations unanimously agreed that, by 2030, close to a third of the world's lands and waters must be formally protected for nature—putting Rainforest Trust's mission at the very center of the global conservation agenda, where it belongs. And second, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was voted back in as president of Brazil where he pledged to end all deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon by 2030 and to lock up as much undesignated land as possible during his four-year term.

These developments within Rainforest Trust and in the wider world mean that we now have the most ambitious pipeline of projects we have ever had, more critical projects than we can fund with existing resources. Thus, every single gift will make possible vital conservation that would not happen otherwise. Our work is cut out for us, and the opportunity for you, our supporters, to change the world has never been greater. Stay with us on this incredible journey, and thank you!

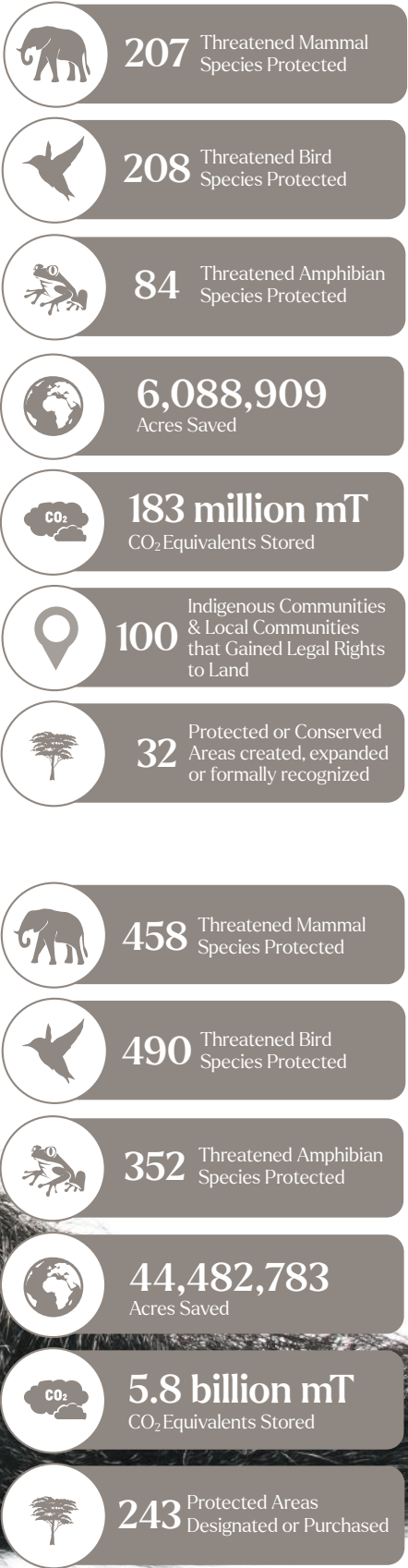
For the rainforests,



James C. Deutsch
Dr. James C. Deutsch,
Chief Executive Officer



Success Measurements



Big Things Come in Small Packages

*Great things are done by a series of
small things brought together.*

—Vincent van Gogh

Over the years, some of Rainforest Trust's smallest land projects have had a disproportionate impact on threatened, range-restricted species. Here, we look at examples in Colombia and Ecuador that, while small in size, are helping save species living there from extinction.

Blue-throated Hillstar | PAUL MOLINA PHOTOGRAPHY

Antioquia Brush-finch | Colombia

Since being rediscovered in 2018, the endemic, Critically Endangered Antioquia Brush-finch was recorded on 25 properties north of Medellín, the second largest city in Colombia. Knowing that there were fewer than 50 individuals left, Rainforest Trust, in partnership with the American Bird Conservancy and Corporación Salvamontes, launched the "Last Stand for the Antioquia Brush-finch" project. This swift action expedited the purchase of these properties that enabled the creation of the 1,025-acre Antioquia Brush-finch Nature Reserve. The rusty-crowned songbird now has a chance of survival in this small but critical refuge.



Ridge Marsupial Frog | Ecuador

Many rare amphibians are found only on southern Ecuador's Abra de Zamora ridge. The Endangered *Gastrotheca psychrophila*, commonly known as the Ridge Marsupial Frog, is just one of them. This rich and complex habitat is home to 29 species of amphibians, 11 considered endemic and 12 considered new to science. But as critical habitat is deforested and degraded for cattle grazing and urban expansion, these amphibians are losing their limited range.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Nature and Culture International—Ecuador are working to protect 4,814 acres to expand the 360,000-acre Podocarpus National Park (Important Land Purchase for Endemic Amphibians in Ecuador). In or by November 2022, we safeguarded 798 acres of this irreplaceable ecosystem of global significance for conservation, with the remaining acres underway.

Atelopus palmatus | Ecuador

Eastern Ecuador's humid montane and evergreen forests are home to the endemic, Critically Endangered *Atelopus palmatus*. Commonly known as Andersson's Stubfoot Toad, this tiny rare species is only found in the Cordillera Oriental—a chain of mountains in the Andes. But encroaching agriculture, logging and the development of a hydroelectric dam have contributed to an 80% decline of its population.

With our partner, Fundación EcoMinga, Rainforest Trust is working toward the protection of a total of 1,885 acres in this project. Nearly 300 acres were purchased in November 2022 with the

ABOVE Antioquia Brush-finch | J. ESTEBAN BERRIO

remaining acres underway. This project, "Protect Ecuador's Valley of Orchids," builds on our shared work in this region to identify and protect the unique species that dwell in dramatic rocky canyons filled with sinkholes, caves and subterranean aquifers.

Blue-throated Hillstar | Ecuador

Preserving 1,172 acres can make a world of difference. For Ecuador's Critically Endangered Blue-throated Hillstar—a tiny, iridescent hummingbird—it has. First described to science in 2018, this endemic bird was immediately found to be facing extinction, with its population assessed at no more than 110 mature individuals and declining.

Found only in páramo grassland in the western Andes, the Blue-throated Hillstar is strictly dependent on the pale yellow and orange flowering *Chuquiraga jussieui* shrubs that grow here. But its alpine habitat is severely threatened as it is burned and degraded for cattle grazing and pine plantations. Rainforest Trust and our partner, Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco, launched the "Creating the First Blue-throated Hillstar Reserve" project to protect this land. Completed in November 2022, this refuge now secures the known habitat of this beautiful hummingbird. In addition to safeguarding these acres, Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco is planting *Chuquiraga jussieui* to enrich this habitat.

Blue-billed Curassow | Colombia






A large, ground-dwelling tropical bird, the Critically Endangered Blue-billed Curassow is just one of the imperiled species found in the Barbacoas region of the Middle Magdalena Valley. This ecosystem is one of the most richly biodiverse—yet least protected—in Colombia. Between 85 to 90% of the original rainforest and wetlands here have been degraded or destroyed, primarily for cattle ranching.

As this bird's population decreases, fewer than 2,200 mature individuals are estimated to survive in the remaining habitat. Rainforest Trust and our local partner, Fundación Biodiversa Colombia, expanded the protection of this critical landscape for the Blue-billed Curassow by supporting the purchase of 1,315 acres in 2022. This second project, "Expand Protection in Colombia's Magical Magdalena Valley," increased the El Silencio Natural Reserve to 6,880 protected acres of critical habitat for this imperiled species.



Blue-billed Curassow | QUINCY FLOYD

Spring & Fall Monarch Migration Patterns

-  Fall Migration
-  Spring Migration
-  Spring Breeding Areas
-  Spring & Summer Breeding Areas
-  Summer Breeding Areas



Mexican Mountains Protected for Monarchs

Mexico's tapestry of ecosystems is one of the most diverse on Earth. Arid deserts, scrublands, high-altitude alpine areas and temperate, subtropical and tropical rainforests as well as coral reefs create a home for approximately 200,000 different species—equaling 10 to 12% of global biodiversity. Since our first project here in 1996, we have worked with our partners to establish 10 protected areas for many threatened species including the Bolson Tortoise, White-lipped Chirping Frog, Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise, Lilac-crowned Amazon, Black-and-white Owl and Durango Mud Turtle.

A project launched in 2020 with local partner ProNatura Noreste expanded our footprint to the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range. Formed about 60 million years ago, the Sierra Madre Oriental stretches 700 miles, with more than 4,900 named peaks, including the highest—Cerro El Potosí—at 12,208 feet. Home to many endemic species, this dramatic mountain range has lost more than 88,000 acres of forest in the last decade alone. Of the land outside federal or state-protected areas in the region, more than 85% of the forests have been cleared for agricultural and livestock use.



This landscape is also a part of the "Monarch Corridor," the migratory route where the Monarch Butterfly converges to forage and rest for the winter. These extraordinary, beautiful insects travel nearly 3,000 miles each year from their summer breeding grounds in the United States and Canada to central Mexico and California. On July 21, 2022, the subspecies, Migratory Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus ssp. plexippus*) was uplisted to "Endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, a status change driven by continued habitat destruction and climate change.

A few weeks later, in August, the Tamaulipas state government declared 1,372,670 acres of the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range as the "Monarch Butterfly Migratory Corridor for the Sierra Madre Oriental." Not only is the protected area a vital corridor for the Monarchs, it is also part of a larger strategy to ensure conservation and connectivity between four key protected areas. This includes the adjacent 1,853-acre Regalo de Dios Voluntary Conservation Area—protected by Rainforest Trust in August 2019. Many species that would otherwise be isolated and fragmented, including the Red-crowned Amazon, Yellow-headed Amazon, Maroon-fronted Parrot, Military Macaw, Jaguar and Mexican Black Bear, also benefit from this refuge.



Curated Conservation:

Rainforest Trust's 35-Year Strategy for Saving Earth's Most Threatened Species

Within the intricate tapestry of life, the preservation of the world's ecosystems plays a pivotal role in safeguarding our planet's extraordinary biodiversity. Rainforest Trust, with its 35-year commitment to create protected and conserved areas, has been at the forefront of efforts to protect and conserve the world's most endangered and range-restricted species.

Understanding the complexity of safeguarding these invaluable landscapes, Rainforest Trust strives to establish a network of conserved areas spanning multinational landscapes. By applying a patchwork of land protection strategies, we ensure the long-term survival of rare and endangered species, nurture the interconnectedness of ecosystems and promote resilience.

Below, we delve into examples of our work, highlighting the urgent need to protect these invaluable ecosystems, and recognizing the crucial role they each play in preserving our planet's rich biodiversity.

The Chocó Rainforest: A Coastal Haven

In the vibrant mosaic of the Chocó rainforests, the captivating Endangered Banded Ground-cuckoo steals the spotlight with its black plumage adorned by striking white bands. As it emerges from the undergrowth with brown eyes gleaming, it showcases its sturdy build and graceful stride across the forest floor. This encounter, though fleeting, leaves the indelible mark of rare and enchanting beauty. This remarkable bird is just one of the 62 endemic bird species and 2,250 endemic vascular plant species restricted to the coastal Chocó Rainforest of Colombia and Ecuador.

Rainforest Trust, committed to safeguarding this invaluable landscape, has invested over \$15 million since 1999, expanding protection for numerous threatened species. Using diverse strategies, including private reserves and government protected areas, Rainforest Trust has secured the formal protection of 62,328 acres with an additional 110,899 acres on the path to preservation.

Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo: From Megafauna to Frogs

The human communities of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) hold a deep connection to their natural environment in a region that boasts extraordinary ecological richness. Rainforest Trust's investment of over \$5.1 million since 2015 has played a pivotal role in protecting this unique habitat and supporting local communities.

Collaborating closely with community groups, and local and international partners, Rainforest Trust has safeguarded 3,045,878 acres here, supporting the survival of iconic species such as the Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorilla and the Endangered Okapi as well as less well-known but equally threatened species such as the Endangered Itombwe Massif Clawed Frog. These unique and threatened creatures, cherished by both local communities and conservationists, live within the delicate ecosystems that the communities have traditionally stewarded. Rainforest Trust's dedication not only preserves the incredible biological diversity of the region but also strengthens the resilience of local communities and safeguards our planet's natural heritage for generations to come.

**Annamite Mountain Range:
Preserving Southeast Asia's
Wildlife Haven**

The Annamite Mountain Range spanning Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia is a critical home for rare and endangered wildlife. Within this biodiverse landscape, iconic species such as the Critically Endangered Saola, Large-antlered Muntjac, Chinese Three-striped Box Turtle and Red-shanked Douc Langur find solace and protection. However, the delicate balance of this forest ecosystem is under threat from deforestation, habitat fragmentation and unsustainable hunting.

To combat these challenges, Rainforest Trust has committed significant resources, investing nearly \$5 million since 2018 to safeguard 133,098 acres of critical habitat in the Annamite Mountains. Furthermore, Rainforest Trust's ongoing efforts are intended to expand protection, with an additional 341,310 acres currently being secured. By preserving key areas of the Annamite Mountain Range, Rainforest Trust is not only safeguarding the survival of endangered species but also protecting the ecological integrity and biodiversity of this unique landscape, contributing to global conservation efforts.

For 35 years, Rainforest Trust has remained dedicated to a strategic approach to conservation, diligently seeking out, selecting and returning to landscapes that harbor the most threatened species on Earth. The urgency of protecting these remarkable ecosystems cannot be overstated. Rainforest Trust's unwavering commitment offers hope for the future, safeguarding Earth's biodiversity and preserving the awe-inspiring wonders that make our planet truly remarkable.



Biodiversity Hotspots

"Biodiversity hotspots" are regions with exceptional biodiversity and high concentrations of unique species. They are important because they support endangered species, provide essential ecosystem services, preserve cultural heritage, offer scientific insights and contribute to global conservation efforts. Protecting these hotspots is crucial for preserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystems and ensuring a sustainable future.

Looking Forward

During 2022, Rainforest Trust approved a total of **40 projects in tropical and subtropical regions of 23 countries**. The projects also reflect our strategic focus on protecting Earth's three largest remaining rainforests: the Amazon, the Congo and the forests of the island of New Guinea.

Africa

Equatorial Guinea | Ghana | Guinea | Liberia
Republic of the Congo | São Tomé and Príncipe
South Africa | Zambia

10 projects | 2,621,107 acres
Threatened Species | 384
Investment | \$16,706,720
CO₂ equivalents | 367,627,176 metric tons

Latin America & the Caribbean

Argentina | Belize | Brazil | Chile | Colombia
Cuba | Ecuador | Mexico | Peru

23 projects | 9,838,863 acres
Threatened Species | 464
Investment | \$36,051,832
CO₂ equivalents | 2,082,115,824 metric tons

Asia Pacific

India | Indonesia | Laos | Myanmar
Nepal | Sri Lanka

7 projects | 1,613,274 acres
Threatened Species | 559
Investment | \$6,974,544
CO₂ equivalents | 68,698,788 metric tons

Giant Otter | CHRISTIAN VINCES
Black-bellied Tern | AMINTRANE



The Endangered Black-bellied Tern's population is in steep decline. The global population of this rare, elegant bird is now confined primarily to India, where no more than 1,000 individuals are estimated to survive. However, one of Myanmar's last breeding populations of the species hangs on along the Ayeyarwady River, where Rainforest Trust and our partner, Fauna and Flora International, are protecting 74,132 acres of critical wetland habitat along two sections of the river.



**Our Work
1988—2022**

**44,482,783
Acres Protected**
**57,522,586
Acres In-Progress**



Mexico | Create a Corridor for Mexican Wolves and Jaguars

Proposed protection: 2,138,854 acres
Partner: Nature and Culture International

Large carnivores like the Jaguar, Mexican Wolf and America Black Bear still roam a 2.5-million-acre watershed of streams, tributaries and lush forests in the mountains of western Mexico. This oasis for wildlife in the otherwise dry region of the Sonoran Desert supports several important migratory routes for birds, pollinators and bats. But logging, poaching, wildfires, cattle ranching and large-scale mining concessions threaten this vast habitat and its aquifers.

Goal | Formal government designation of the Cuenca del Río Mayo Natural Resources Protected Area—an area three times the size of Yosemite National Park. Once protected, the area will fortify a wildlife corridor of over 4.2 million acres in the Sierra Madre Occidental.

Brazil | Save the Brazilian Amazon

Proposed protection: 2,262,878 acres
Partner: Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil

The Amazon is the world's largest and most important tropical rainforest and originally spanned more than 1.7 billion acres—nearly the size of the continental U.S. It is a refuge for a third of Earth's terrestrial species and stores 100 billion metric tons of CO₂ equivalents. Traditional communities have been living sustainably within these ancient rainforests for generations. But land-grabbing for illegal mining, logging and the expansion of agriculture and cattle farming is threatening the biodiversity that sustains their way of life.

Goal | Legal recognition of the land tenure of traditional communities and their long-standing role in sustainably managing their lands.

Guinea | Save African Forest Elephants from Mining in Guinea

Proposed protection: 560,512 acres
Partner: The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

The largest and only viable population of the Critically Endangered African Forest Elephant in Guinea survives in rainforest and shrubby savanna stretching along the border with Sierra Leone. Threats abound, linked to illegal logging, bushmeat hunting, and slash-and-burn agriculture, but the most significant is the construction of a 100-mile iron ore railway requiring four tunnels and 43 bridges.

Goal | Government declaration of the Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park to link wide-roaming species like elephants to a vast wildlife corridor stretching into Sierra Leone, and mitigate the impacts of the railway.

Myanmar | Save Asia's Last Wild River for Dolphins

Proposed protection: 74,132 acres
Partner: Fauna and Flora International

The Ayeyarwady River (or Irrawaddy River) and its lush wetlands represent the largest remaining undammed river system of Southeast Asia. It supports outstanding biodiversity and globally significant populations of a Critically Endangered local subpopulation of the Irrawaddy Dolphin as well as Critically Endangered Black-bellied Tern and White-bellied Heron and Vulnerable *Wallago attu*, a freshwater catfish. Threats to the long-term health of the ecosystem include unsustainable fishing practices, hunting and trapping of water birds and turtles, illegal gold and sand mining, pollution and channelization of water.

Goal | Formal designation of a community-based network of Fish Conservation Areas and Community Protected Areas that will protect critical wetland habitat.

The **Critically Endangered West African Slender-snouted Crocodile** is at the brink of extinction. Its population has decreased 70–90% in the last 75 years due to habitat loss and poaching. Rainforest Trust and our partner, Threatened Species Conservation Alliance, are working to establish the community-based Techiman-Tanoso Crocodile Sanctuary along a 25-mile stretch of the Tano River to save the crocodile.





Our Supporters

Thank you to the many people who supported our work in 2022. Our success was powered by your kindness and generosity. We especially would like to thank the following for their leadership support:

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Though not listed here, we are also extremely grateful to many additional major supporters who wish to remain anonymous, as well as the many supporters who gave through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).



The Conservation Circle is Rainforest Trust's premier corporate giving program. Members include Corporate Partners who support conservation and want to make a positive difference for our planet. Conservation Circle members provide crucial financial support for our most urgent conservation projects.

Foundations

Rainforest Trust is grateful for the generous support from foundations. Our critical work would not be possible without these foundations continuing to demonstrate their commitment to species, communities and the planet.

- Anonymous

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Rainforest Trust believes we are all stakeholders in protecting our planet's most threatened tropical forests and endangered wildlife. Our corporate partners are committed to conservation, sustainability and a greener world.

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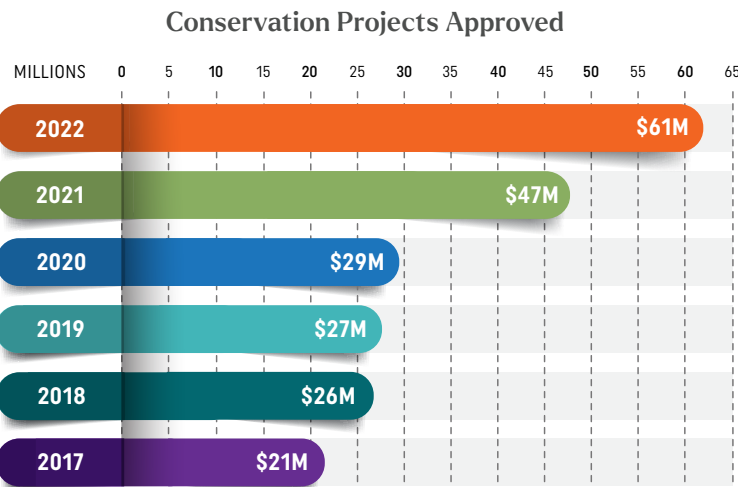
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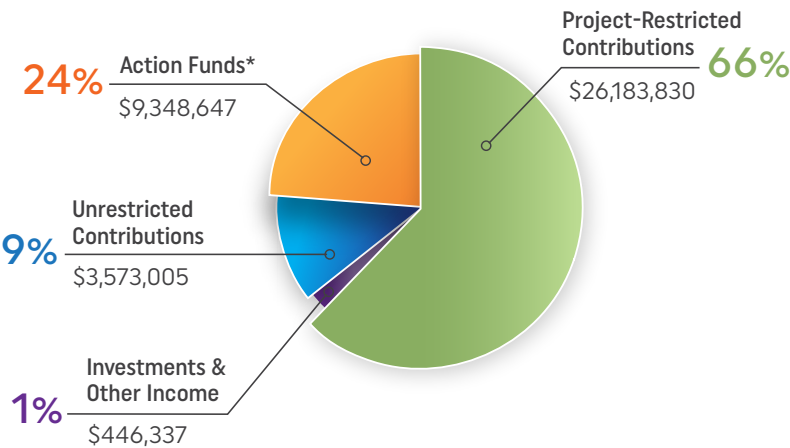
Financial Report

Our Grant-Making Continues to Grow

2022 represented a year of continued growth in our grant-making, with our largest portfolio yet: **\$61M in new projects approved**. This program growth has been made possible by strong demand to create and expand protected and conserved areas in the tropics and subtropics, by the growing expertise of our Conservation Strategy Team, and by broadening and deepening our partnerships. Our donors generously contributed almost \$40M toward this work this year, with the remainder funded by our record donations in 2021 or by projected gifts in 2023.



2022 Revenue: \$39.5M

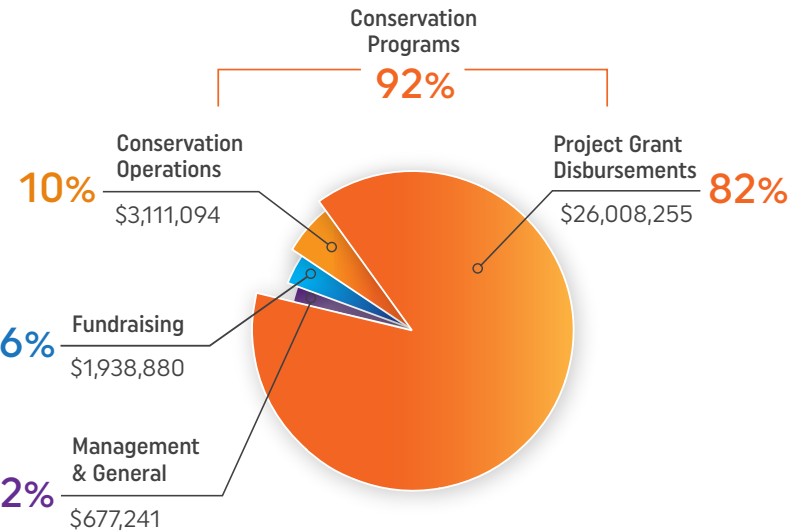


* Donors support Rainforest Trust's Action Funds to channel funds to the projects most in need: Conservation Action Fund for all projects, Rainforest Climate Action Fund for projects with climate change impact, and Fellows & Guardians to support staff in the field.

During 2022, Rainforest Trust received over **\$39.5M in revenue**, primarily from individual contributions and family foundations to support our conservation work across the globe. Donors contribute to specific projects, general regions, or flexible funds that allow us to support conservation work where it is most needed. The need for funding continues to grow as our grant-making grows, and our supporters are rising to the challenge.

2022 Expenses: \$31.7M

We spent \$31.7 million during 2022, primarily funding project disbursements and conservation operations. **We manage our expenses to focus 92% of expenses to conservation programs, including 82% to grants to implementing partners** and approximately 10% for development and implementation of projects with our partner organizations. We proudly control our overhead costs, including fundraising and management & general, to less than 8%.



We Prioritize Efficiency and Transparency

We direct as much of our funding as possible to our network of partners by streamlining our processes, leveraging technology, and retaining our talented team of professionals across 6 countries and 13 states. Our efficient operations and transparent approach have allowed us to maintain our **perfect Charity Navigator rating** for nine years in a row, an important expression of our value to our stakeholders.

Two key metrics demonstrate our success in this effort:

92%
Program Expense Percentage*

The percentage of total expenses that support our programs versus overhead.

\$0.05
Fundraising Efficiency*

*Our average cost to fundraise each dollar.



Young Veiled Chameleon | ERIC ISSELEE

Ways to Donate

Various Online Options

Credit/Debit Cards,
Paypal/Digital Wallets, and more:
RainforestTrust.org

Phone

1 (800) 456-4930

Mail

P.O. Box 841, Warrenton, VA 20188

Corporate Partnerships

To learn more about the many ways companies from around the world partner with Rainforest Trust, contact: Corporate@RainforestTrust.org

Become a Conservation Hero

Conservation Heroes is a global network of dedicated individuals who give monthly to support our most urgent conservation work. To learn more, visit: RainforestTrust.org/hero

Planned Giving

Create a conservation legacy by including Rainforest Trust in your will or estate planning. To learn more, visit: RainforestTrust.org/plannedgiving

Other Ways to Give

Contact Donations@RainforestTrust.org to learn more about giving via:

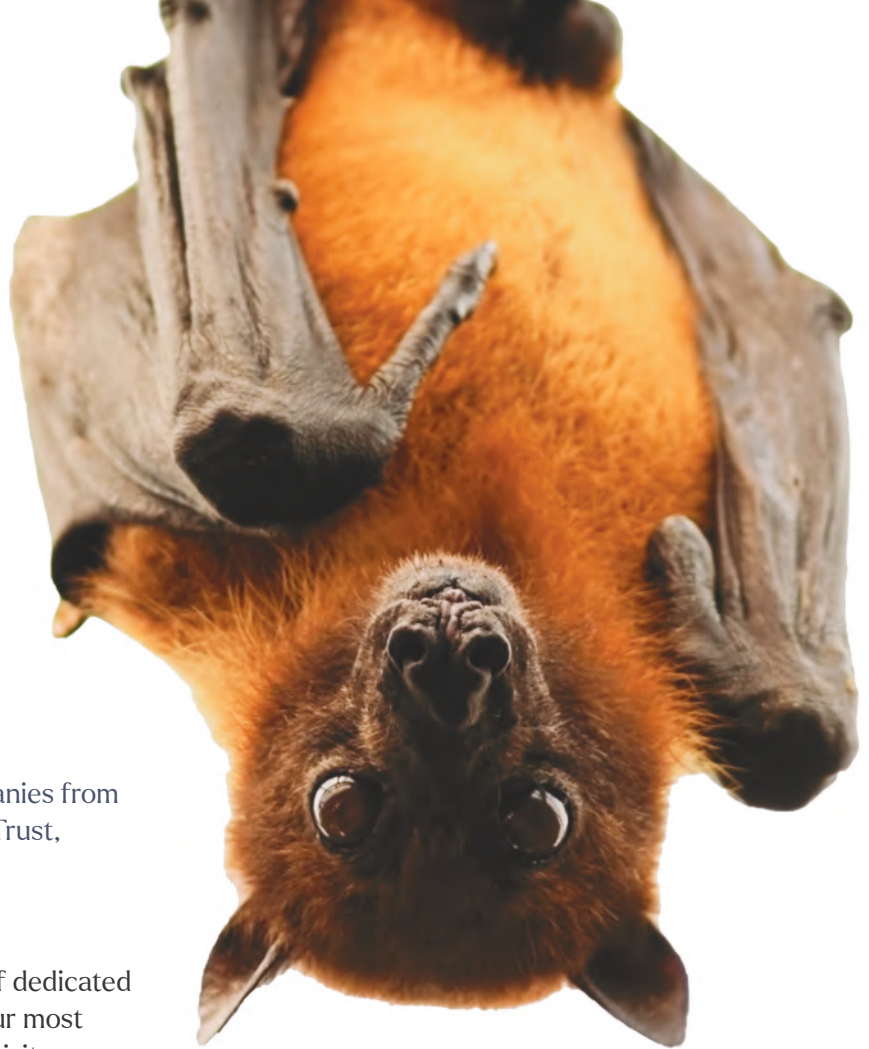
- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**
- **Stock Donations**
- **Donor Advised Funds (DAF)**

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Perfect 100 Score
from Charity
Navigator



The highest rating
from Guidestar for
transparency