PROPOSED PROJECT
BRAZIL


Mangroves © Manguezais da Região


Black Rail © Hector Bottai

Preserve the Amazon's Coastal Gem

175,000
ACRES

$2,162,898
PROJECT COST

$12.36
COST PER ACRE

40,020,303 mT
CO_2 EQUIVALENTS STORED

KEY SPECIES:
Black Rail (EN), *Kryptolebias campelloi* (CR), Atlantic Goliath Grouper (VU), American Manatee (VU), Swamp Ghost Crab (*Ucides cordatus*, not assessed)

The world's largest and most well-conserved belt of mangroves stretches along the coastline of Brazil where the Amazon River pours into the Atlantic Ocean and forms the immense Amazon River Estuary. The estuary holds 80% of Brazil's mangroves—all located within a 9.5-million-acre coastal wetland of international importance known as a Ramsar site—and is home to at least 40 globally threatened species and 21 listed as threatened on Brazil's Red List.

Despite other protections in place for this wider estuary, a serious and significant gap has left mangroves vulnerable. The potential of oil and gas exploration looms large as the greatest threat to the Amazon coastline. Unregulated exploitation of natural resources, such as forest clearing, unsustainable fishing practices and urbanization, are ongoing threats. At risk is a unique refuge and nursing environment for marine and coastal species facing extinction, like Atlantic Goliath Grouper, Kryptolebias campelloi, a rare fish, Black Rail, a tiny, elusive marsh bird, and the American Manatee.

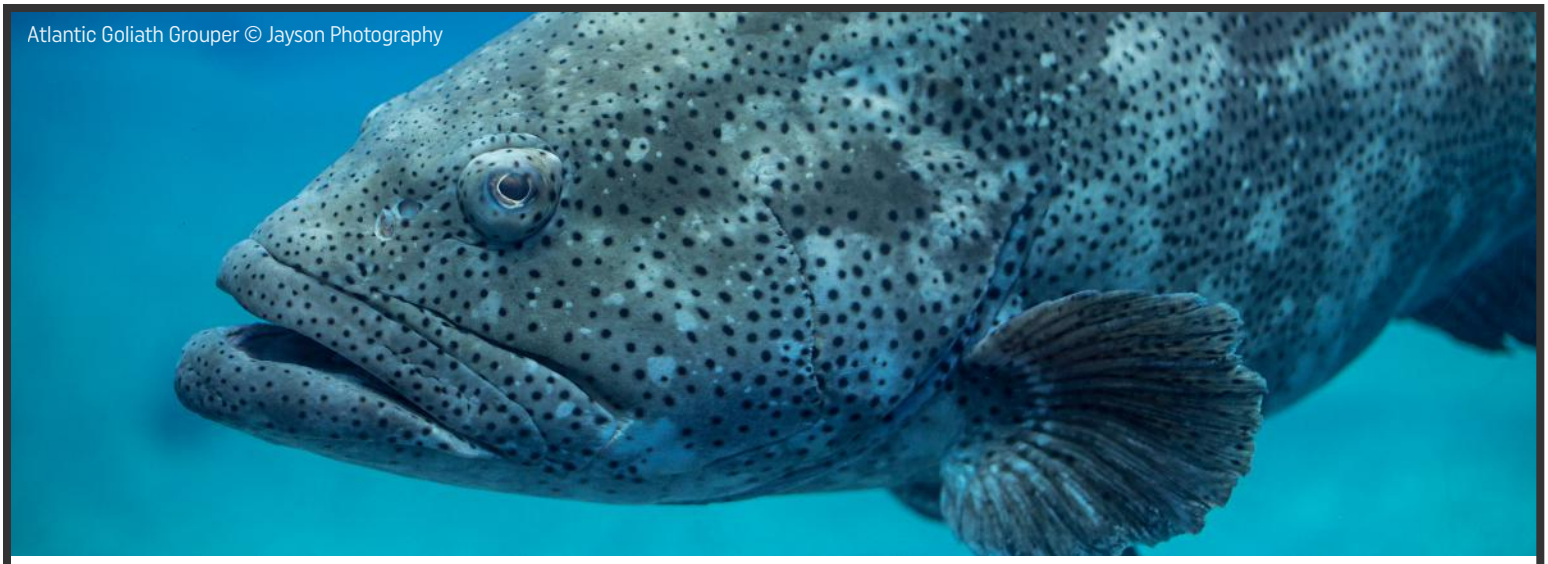
Rainforest Trust and our partner, RARE Brazil, seek $2,162,898 to support safeguarding 175,000 acres of the unprotected mangroves and coastal waters through government designation of two new sustainable use reserves and the expansion of one existing reserve. These legal designations will negate existing oil, gas and mining claims and prevent new ones. The areas are to be co-managed by traditional and local fishery communities, government, and other stakeholders.

SAVE MANGROVES, SAVE SPECIES

Mangrove forests are under attack around the world as coastlines fall to development, exploitation and other threats. Over 2.1 million acres have been lost in the past 30 years worldwide. Mangroves are of inestimable value for stabilizing the climate. The intact mangrove forests in this project store over 40 million tons of CO_2 equivalents, an amount that, if released, would be comparable to the annual emissions of Sweden.

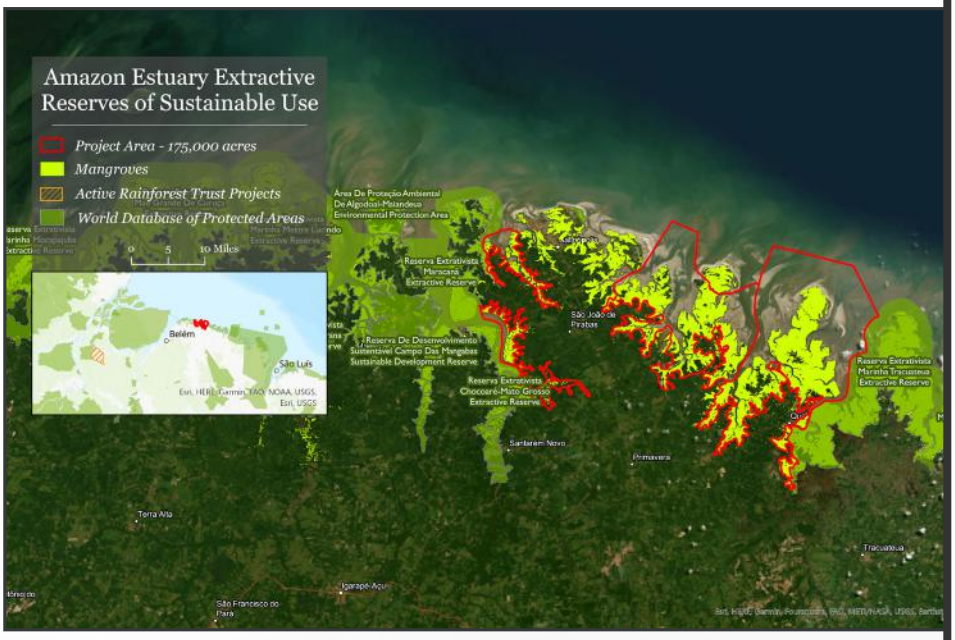
A number of flagship species foundational to the ways of life of traditional communities are linked to mangroves. The swamp ghost crab is essential for its role in maintaining mangrove ecosystem health and as a principle source of food and livelihoods for local communities.

The iconic Atlantic Goliath Grouper is the largest grouper species in the Atlantic Ocean, growing up to 6.5 feet in length and 880 pounds. The mangroves are an important nursery for juveniles of this species, which is globally threatened and critically endangered along the Brazilian coast.



Atlantic Goliath Grouper © Jayson Photography

Manatees have evolved to rely on mangroves to calve their young without fear of the babies being stranded in the wider ocean, and the American Manatee here is no exception. This region is also important to migratory shorebirds and to three species of sea turtles fighting extinction.



CHAMPION LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PROTECTING FISH STOCKS

The new reserves will grant local traditional populations first rights to the use of their territories to preserve their ways of life and livelihoods. They will attain the legal authority and capacity to co-manage the mangrove forests and surrounding waters for long-term ecosystem health and to block industrial fishing and illegal deforestation of the land.

Rainforest Trust has made a long-term commitment to support Indigenous and traditional communities in the Brazilian Amazon to secure legal land tenure and management rights of their territories. We have a number of projects underway in this region to permanently safeguard intact forests that sustain people and threatened species, and lock up billions of metric tons of carbon to alleviate climate disruption.

Swamp Ghost Crab © Dmitrii Kas

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