



Jaguar © Pedro Pinheiro



Mexican Gray Wolf © Madel Photography

Create a Corridor for Mexican Wolves and Jaguars

Large carnivores like Jaguar, Mexican Wolf and American Black Bear still roam a vast area of lush forests in the mountains of western Mexico. The region is defined by a 2.5-million-acre watershed of streams and tributaries that flow down through mountains, valleys, ravines and deep canyons to feed the Concheño, Agua Caliente and Mayo Rivers. As an oasis for wildlife in the otherwise dry region of the Sonoran Desert, this vital habitat also supports several important migratory routes for birds, pollinators and bats.

But logging, poaching, wildfires and cattle ranching threaten this vast habitat for imperiled species. Large-scale mineral mining concessions further cloud the future of the region and threaten the aquifers that ensure high water quality for surrounding communities and for wildlife. Climate change exacerbates the risks.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Nature and Culture International, seek \$2,634,380 to achieve formal designation of the 2,138,854-acre Cuenca del Río Mayo Natural Resources Protected Area—an area three times the size of Yosemite National Park. **Once protected and combined with other federally protected areas nearby, Cuenca del Río Mayo will fortify a wildlife corridor of over 4.2 million acres in the Sierra Madre Occidental for wide-roaming carnivores, globally endangered migratory birds and hundreds of other species.**

SAVE A VAST WATERSHED FOR RARE SPECIES

Cuenca del Río Mayo is one of the largest watersheds in northwestern Mexico, and its unique mix of habitat includes tropical deciduous forests, oak forests, high-integrity coniferous forests and thorn scrub. Over 45% of the terrain is old-growth or undisturbed forest.

The Thick-billed Parrot (EN), Lilac-crowned Amazon (EN), Military Macaw (VU) and the Mojave Desert Tortoise (CR) rely on this terrain for their survival, as do 147 species of rare animals and plants—34 of them endemic. Both the Thick-billed Parrot and Lilac-crowned Amazon are endemic to the Sierra Madre Occidental and are suffering a significant decline in their populations due to loss of habitat and breeding sites, climate impacts and the illegal pet trade.

ENSURE LARGE CARNIVORES ROOM TO ROAM

The Jaguar is at the top of the food chain and thus its presence is important to maintain the ecological integrity of the area. Cuenca del Río Mayo represents



2,138,854
ACRES

\$2,634,380
PROJECT COST

\$1.23
COST PER ACRE

115,543,265 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Thick-billed Parrot (EN),
Lilac-crowned Amazon (EN),
Mojave Desert Tortoise (CR)



Mojave Desert Tortoise © Darren J. Bradley

the northmost reach of its present range, making it a top priority for ecosystem conservation.

Cuenca del Río Mayo is important for ongoing efforts to reintroduce the Mexican Wolf to its historic landscape after suffering widespread extermination by human hands. The area's proximity to existing federally protected areas—where this important carnivore is still found—make it a top conservation priority for reintroduction and so the wolf can naturally expand its range.



COMMUNITIES COLLABORATE FOR CONSERVATION

There are 531 local and Indigenous communities with over 24,000 inhabitants within the proposed protected area. Communities will not be displaced by the creation of the federally protected area, and they will continue to have access to the natural resources within for traditional, sustainable use. They will be fully informed and consulted when the specific boundaries of the protected area are drawn. Livelihood opportunities will include being trained and equipped to conduct ongoing biological surveys to monitor species and habitat health.

Thick-billed Parrot © Patrick Rolands

