

For Immediate Release

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## **Rainforest Trust helps launch Africa-led Miombo Initiative to protect the Miombo Woodlands of Southern Africa**

(Warrenton, VA) This week at the [Miombo Summit](#) on April 17 in Washington, D.C., H.E. President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique launched the Miombo Initiative to save Africa's Miombo Woodlands in collaboration with countries from across Southern Africa, supported by Rainforest Trust, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The Miombo Initiative aims to protect and restore over 469 million acres of the Miombo Woodlands, which are essential for global biodiversity conservation and climate stability as well as for the livelihoods of more than 300 million residents.

The Miombo Initiative was unveiled by H.E. President Nyusi, who will step down as president next year but is committed to continuing work on this into the future. He has been supported by the Government of Mozambique as well as the other countries of the region, the ICCF, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and Rainforest Trust. The conference was attended by member state delegations from across the region and representatives of civil society and industry.

The Miombo Woodlands are characterized by extensive semi-deciduous forest areas, and tropical and subtropical shrubland and savannas, important habitat for large mammals and plant species including the *Brachystegia* species for which the area is named. The ecoregion encompasses the largest dry tropical forest in the world. It sustains the Greater Zambezi, one of Earth's most important transborder hydrographic basins.

The Miombo Woodlands are globally important for biodiversity and contain Kasanka National Park, the destination for the largest mammal migration in the world – that of the annual African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat. Equally noteworthy are the isolated mountain ranges, known as inselbergs, scattered across Mozambique and Malawi whose unique ecosystems harbor numerous species found nowhere else in the world.

Rainforest Trust is actively engaged in conserving the biodiversity of this region and helping deliver tangible benefits for its communities.

Speaking on a panel at the Miombo Summit, Dr. James C. Deutsch, CEO of Rainforest Trust, stated:

***“The expansion of conservation areas, which very much includes new forms of community land tenure, will play a critical role in conserving the unique biodiversity of the Miombo, contributing to sustainable development of local communities, resolving conflicts, and keeping billions of tons of carbon locked up in Africa’s second forest.”***

The creation of conserved areas is one of the most important tools in conservation. It is key to fighting deforestation and biodiversity loss, halting climate change, and protecting land and livelihoods for countless communities. The Miombo Initiative is a significant step forward in the protection of ecologically important habitat across Africa, and across the globe.

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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 Indigenous and local organizations and communities. With its partners, Rainforest Trust has safeguarded more than 46 million acres of vital habitat across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and the Asia–Pacific region. 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 [RainforestTrust.org](https://www.rainforesttrust.org), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#).