

For Immediate Release
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Brazil President Signs Decree that Grows Protection of the Largest Contiguous Belt of Mangroves in the World

(Warrenton, VA) [Rainforest Trust](#), a leading conservation organization with over 35 years of experience in protecting tropical ecosystems and threatened species worldwide, announced the protection of over 180,000 acres of mangrove forest in Brazil—part of the largest contiguous belt of mangroves in the world. The landmark achievement was [signed into law](#) by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on March 21, 2024.

This project, achieved in partnership with [RARE Brazil](#), marks the first legally protected area in the Amazon to be created with Rainforest Trust support, and represents a huge win for species and habitat conservation.

This area is located 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.

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 protected acreage will store over 40 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents.

A number of flagship species foundational to the ways of life of traditional communities are linked to mangroves, including the Swamp Ghost Crab and iconic Atlantic Goliath Grouper. This region is an important, unique refuge for manatees, who rely on mangroves to calve their young, as well as for migratory shorebirds and three species of sea turtle fighting extinction.

This region is also an important source of food and livelihoods for over 10,000 people in traditional coastal communities on the Amazon coast. The new federal designations will enable local communities to co-manage the reserves, defending their rich marine biodiversity from multiple threats of coastal development.

This project was the first to be funded in part by the [Rainforest Trust Brazilian Amazon Fund](#), created in 2023 to permanently safeguard 20 million acres in Brazil over the next four years.

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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](https://twitter.com/rainforesttrust), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rainforesttrust), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rainforesttrust), or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rainforest-trust).