

For Immediate Release

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CEO of Rainforest Trust Available for Interviews and Analysis

Rainforest Trust Reacts to Report that Brazil and Colombia Made Significant Forest Conservation Gains in 2023, but Global Deforestation Challenges Persist

(Warrenton, VA) Primary forest loss significantly declined in Brazil and Colombia in 2023, as reported by World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch [platform](#) in their yearly [report](#). Despite these gains, however, the rate of deforestation in the world's rainforests—moist tropical primary forest—has remained constant, with 3.7 million hectares lost—an area just under the size of Bhutan, or the equivalent of losing ten soccer fields per minute. While Brazil and Colombia saw declines, this was made up for through increased deforestation in Bolivia, Laos, Nicaragua, and others.

The Congo Basin's status as a net carbon sink is under threat. Bolivia's record forest loss is driven by fires and agricultural expansion, notably soybean cultivation. While maintaining historically low rates of deforestation, Indonesia experienced a 27% increase in primary forest loss last year, exacerbated by El Niño conditions.

In reaction to this report, James Deutsch, CEO of Rainforest Trust, stated:

“This report shows deforestation can be slowed and halted given high level political leadership, good governance, and direct action to reduce forest loss. Community support is key, and conservation areas, including indigenous territories and titled land, remain our best tool for halting deforestation.”

These data underscore the urgency for global efforts to combat deforestation and protect critical ecosystems. The mixed results of 2023—significant progress in some areas but setbacks in others—highlight the need for continued innovation, policy action, financial investments, and international cooperation to achieve the global goal of zero deforestation by 2030.

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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](#).