



**RAINFOREST  
TRUST®**

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## **Rainforest Trust Announces New Board Chair Bernie Tershy**

(Warrenton, VA) – Bernie Tershy was formally voted in as new chair of the board of Rainforest Trust, at the organization’s summer board meeting.

Rainforest Trust saves endangered wildlife and protects the planet by creating rainforest reserves through partnerships, community engagement and donor support.

Tershy is an Adjunct Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he co-directs the Coastal Conservation Action Lab. He is a co-founder of Island Conservation, which has created over 2.2 million acres of new marine and island protected areas and protected over 250 seabird colonies and 400 insular endemics from extinction. Bernie is also co-founder and board chair of Conservation Metrics, a for-profit social venture dedicated to improving conservation through better monitoring, and co-founder of Freshwater Life, which saves endangered freshwater species by eradicating freshwater invasives.

Bernie is a member of the IUCN’s Invasive Species Specialist Group, Commission on Ecosystem Management, and Asian Species Action Partnership. He serves as a consultant to the Mulago Foundation’s Henry Arnhold Fellows Program, and is on the board of OneReef. He has been on the advisory boards of a number of organizations including the Tony Hawk Foundation, Common Mission Project, and Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program . He earned his B.S. in Biology from UC-Santa Cruz, an M.S. in Marine Sciences from San Jose State University, and a Ph.D. in Neurobiology and Behavior from Cornell University.

Speaking about Tershy’s new role, Dr. James C. Deutsch, CEO of Rainforest Trust, stated:

“Bernie is at once a global expert in the extinction of species and how to prevent that and also a serial, successful founder and incubator of high impact conservation organizations, both non-profit and for-profit. His extraordinary skills and experience will be invaluable to Rainforest Trust as we craft a new Strategic Plan for 2026-2030 and as the world races to achieve 30x30.”

Speaking about his new position as Board Chair, Dr. Bernie Tershy stated:

“Protected areas are a powerful and proven conservation solution. Rainforest Trust is the best organization in the world sponsoring the creation of the entire spectrum of protected areas from Indigenous title and community conserved areas to government managed national parks. I am thrilled to help it grow.”



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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 50 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), [X](#) (Twitter), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

