



## PROPOSED PROJECT PHILIPPINES

# Protect Endemic Birds in the Philippines

In the Philippines, 40% of all the species identified in this extremely biodiverse archipelago are endemic, found only there. Many of these endemics are also threatened, due to a long history of deforestation and habitat loss that has pushed species to the brink of extinction.

At the northern end of Mindoro Island in west-central Philippines, an endemic "hotspot" of highly intact rainforests encompasses a global Key Biodiversity Area as well as an Important Bird Area. Mindoro once was entirely forested, but now the surviving tropical rainforest cover is found mostly along the rugged central mountain spine running north to south.

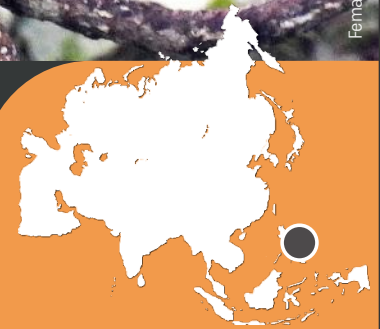
These forests overlap with the ancestral domain of the Iraya Mangyan Indigenous Peoples, and their watersheds are an important source of water. Safeguarding this land from widespread land-grabbing and legal conflicts that threaten the Iraya Mangyan's food security, livelihoods, and culture, will help prevent forest and biodiversity loss.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Center for Conservation Innovations Philippines (CCI-PH), seek \$506,107 to support two Indigenous communities to secure title to 75,000 acres of their ancestral lands through Ancestral Domain Land Title designation and, subsequently, to have it established as an Indigenous Community Conserved Area (ICCA).

Over 350 species were recently documented within the project area, including the endemic Endangered Mindoro Hornbill and Vulnerable Mindoro Racquet-tail, and the Mindoro Imperial Pigeon. Two of the world's rarest birds, the Critically Endangered Mindoro Bleeding-heart and the Critically Endangered Black-hooded Coucal potentially also survive in this landscape, as they have been documented in a nearby forest.

## STOP COMMERCIAL LAND-GRABBING AND DESTRUCTION OF ENDEMIC BIRD HABITAT

Both the Critically Endangered Mindoro Bleeding Heart and the Critically Endangered Black-hooded Coucal populations are each down to an estimated 50 to 249 mature individuals due to habitat loss, hunting, and illegal wildlife trade. Both species are quite possibly still surviving in the project area, and biological surveys will be conducted to confirm their presence.



**75,000**  
ACRES

**\$506,107**  
PROJECT COST

**\$6.75**  
COST PER ACRE

**3,899,305 mT**  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

### KEY SPECIES:

Mindoro Hornbill (EN),  
Mindoro Racquet-tail (VU)  
Mindoro Boobook (VU)





The project site will contribute to the Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor, creating a contiguous stretch of protection from the Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary in the north of the island to the southern reaches of the island.

## SAFEGUARD ANCESTRAL FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Iraya-Mangyan Indigenous Peoples are known for their skill in craft making, which is dependent on them being able to collect materials from within their ancestral forests. The new Mindoro Indigenous Community Conserved Area will allow only sustainable agroforestry and logging, and some low-impact ecotourism activities. Large-scale, commercial extractive activities will be prohibited.

The Ancestral Domain Land Title area will be managed by the council of tribal elders and/or other Indigenous political structures governing the area.

Rainforest Trust is currently working on another project in the Philippines on Panay Island, and we consider the archipelago a critical conservation priority.



The project area © CCI-PH

