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April 22, 2025

TO: Editors and Journalists

RE: This Earth Day Rainforest Trust Fights Climate Disasters

This Earth Day, [Rainforest Trust is fighting climate change](#) by protecting critical habitat across the globe. To date, the organization has safeguarded more than 54 million acres of rainforest, as forests continue to vanish rapidly, and the urgency to protect them has never been greater.

Rainforest Trust projects cost-effectively store and sequester vast quantities of carbon that stabilize the climate—to date totaling over 8.4 gigatons of CO₂ equivalents—comparable to the greenhouse gas emissions from 1.9 billion gas-powered vehicles driven for one year.

In Peru, Rainforest Trust donors are funding the protection of 450,000 acres of high-carbon Amazon rainforest from deforestation, safeguarding carbon equivalent to the annual electricity use of 26 million U.S. homes.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rainforest Trust donors have funded the protection of over 6.8 million acres in the Congo Basin, Earth's last rainforest that continues to absorb more carbon than it emits.

In Papua New Guinea, Rainforest Trust is working with partners to save the third largest rainforest on Earth, which stores vast quantities of carbon in 93% intact forests.

Tropical deforestation is fueling the climate crisis. Every day, an area of tropical rainforest larger than Disney World is destroyed, releasing over 6 million metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere. The consequences are significant and devastating—stronger hurricanes, record-breaking heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and catastrophic wildfires.

Drought is impacting ecosystems, agriculture, water supplies, and economies all over the world. In South America, rivers such as the Amazon and Madeira have dropped to historic lows, disrupting transportation and isolating communities. These drier conditions intensified forest fires—further threatening biodiversity—and weakening the rainforest's ability to absorb CO₂, worsening climate change.

2023 was the hottest year on record. When forests are cleared, carbon is released, temperatures rise, and disasters intensify. Tropical forests not only store carbon, they actively remove it from the atmosphere. Rainforest Trust's mission since their founding has been to safeguard these landscapes, preventing deforestation and keeping carbon stored.



Rainforest Trust saves endangered wildlife and protects the planet by creating rainforest reserves through partnerships, community engagement, and donor support. To date, 99% of the forest in their reserves has remained standing post-protection.

To learn more about Rainforest Trust, visit www.rainforesttrust.org.

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About Rainforest Trust

Since 1988, Rainforest Trust has been working with partners to safeguard imperiled tropical habitats and threatened species by helping to establish protected and conserved areas in partnership with Indigenous and local organizations and communities. To date, Rainforest Trust has helped protect more than 54 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, [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

