



Preserve Mexico's High Biodiversity Mountains

The state of Nuevo León in northeastern Mexico is known for its exceptionally biodiverse montane forest remnants, which are part of the Sierra Madre Oriental Pine-Oak Forest that stretches from central Mexico, through Nuevo León, and up into Texas and New Mexico. The state's Tamaulipan Thorn Scrub ecosystem (known as "Brush Country") and the natural grasslands—considered one of the most threatened ecosystems in North America—complete the picture.

Nuevo León natural areas are home to an abundance of threatened species, including Maroon-fronted Parrot, Worthen's Sparrow, Chaney's Spiny Lizard, Miquihuana Splayfoot Salamander, and slow-growing, miniature cacti with very limited ranges. The Endangered Mexican Prairie Dog, endemic to north central Mexico, has its last sanctuary here. The greatest threats to these biodiverse mountain and grassland refugia are mining and exploitation of stone, forest fires, overgrazing, and agriculture.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Pronatura Noreste, seek \$2,813,533 to support the protection of 1,790,000 acres of Nuevo León's remaining natural areas in a network of four state nature reserves: Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra de Gomas, Sierra de Lampazos-Sabinas and Sierra Las Mazmorras y Pastizales Prístinos.

SAFEGUARD A MAJORITY OF NUEVO LEÓN'S PRIMARY VEGETATION

The new state nature reserves will protect a significant percentage of the primary vegetation of the state, including its natural grasslands, pine forests, and oak, oak-pine, pine-oak and Douglas fir forests.

When the proposed state nature reserves are designated, 22.8% of the state of Nuevo León will be under protected status, strengthening the conservation of two large ecological corridors totaling over 7.9 million acres and saving the last and only sanctuaries for 23 threatened species. The state reserves would be protected from mining exploitation, representing a defining moment in Nuevo León's and Mexico's conservation ambitions.



1,790,000
ACRES

\$2,813,533
PROJECT COST

\$1.57
COST PER ACRE

108,696,363 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae (CR),
Turbinicarpus hoferi (CR),
Mexican Prairie Dog (EN),
Worthen's Sparrow (EN),
Maroon-fronted Parrot (EN),
Sceloporus chaneyi (EN),
Miquihuana Splayfoot Salamander (EN)



SAVE FOUR DISTINCT NATURAL AREAS FOR UNIQUE SPECIES

The proposed Sierra Madre Oriental reserve of 1,199,531 acres features the highest elevation of the project, rising to 11,502 feet. It is home to Maroon-fronted Parrot, Military Macaw, Worthen's Sparrow, range-restricted miniature cacti, snakes, and salamanders. The area lies directly north of our 2022 project with Pronatura Noreste that protected 1,372,671 acres along the migration route of Monarch butterflies, Save Mexico's Biodiversity Stronghold.

Sierra de Gomas (75,678 acres) is 100% covered with primary natural vegetation dominated by thorny forests and desert shrublands with Mexican Black Bear, reptiles, Arroyo Sweetwood, and Mexican Oak.

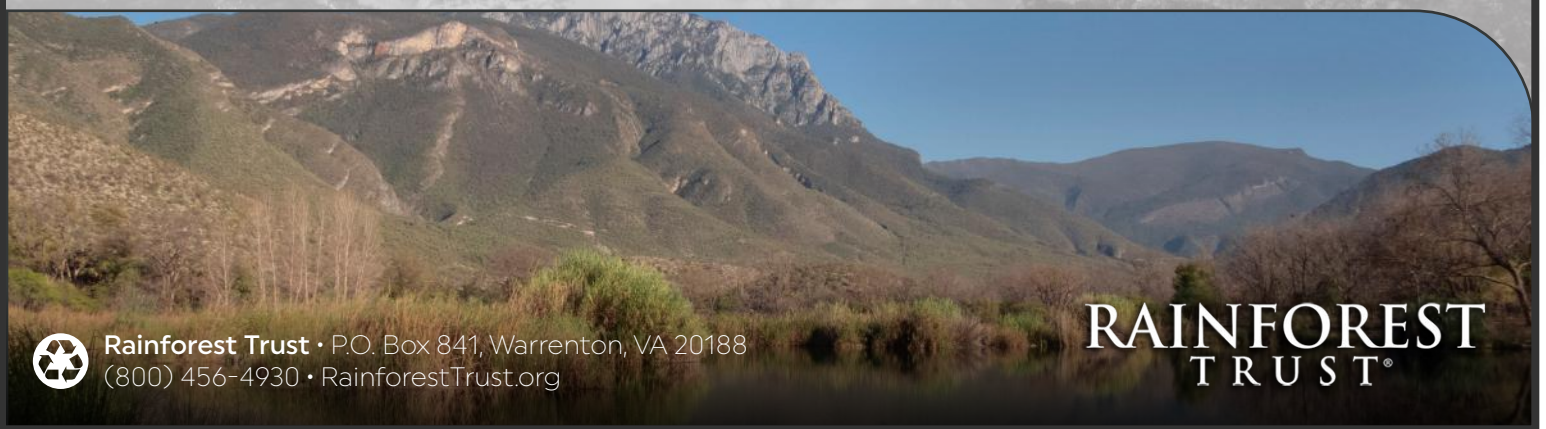
Sierra de Lampazos Sabinas (314,407 acres) is an area of biodiverse submontane scrub, oak forest, desert scrub and remnants of tascate forest, protecting important rare plant species.

Sierra Las Mazmorras y Pastizales Prístinos (200,384 acres) is dominated by desert shrublands, pristine grasslands and pine forest, representing the last remnants of unprotected grasslands in Nuevo León. It is home to Mountain Plover, Sprague's Pipit, and the last unprotected sanctuary for Mexican Prairie Dog in Nuevo León.

Nuevo León's state government is committed to 30X30 goals and seeks to protect natural spaces of great relevance to biodiversity and to secure water resources.



The Sierra Madre Oriental, by Antonio Hernandez, courtesy of partner



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