



RAINFOREST TRUST®

VOL. XVII: 2021/2022

SPECIES AT RISK

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TRUST®**

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

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RAINFOREST TRUST: TRANSPARENT, EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE

Rainforest Trust is committed to the highest level of transparency and responsible stewardship in all that we do. Over **94%** of all donations go to our **direct conservation action** protecting rainforests and benefiting endangered species, Indigenous Peoples and neighboring communities, and the planet. Thanks to the generous support of our Board and others who cover our exceptionally low operating expenses, we are able to allocate 100% of your donation to conservation action.

Since 2014, independent charity evaluator Charity Navigator has awarded Rainforest Trust its highest possible rating of 4 stars for "Exceptional" performance and accountability, and we have been awarded the 2021 Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar.



YEAR IN REVIEW

SAVING OUR SPECIES SAVING OUR PLANET

When the new year rang in on January 1st, we all hoped the coronavirus would soon be on the run. It hasn't quite turned out that way and the global pandemic continues to pose both personal and professional challenges to people around the world. When people and institutions experience a prolonged crisis, other life forms invariably suffer.

The loss of habitat, biodiversity collapse and climate change are interconnected issues. This year was declared a "code red for humanity" by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but for decades, other species have been feeling the negative impact of ours, *Homo sapiens*, upon the planet. Forests have been fragmented, destroyed and completely erased from existence, releasing centuries worth of stored carbon into the atmosphere. Pollution from mining and resource extraction have poisoned waters and land. Our ever-expanding footprint on the planet threatens the survival of all species.

We can choose to sit idly by as species after species goes extinct and our planet dies, or we can act.

Rainforest Trust's mission for over 30 years has been to save species by protecting threatened tropical habitat through strong partnerships and engaging local communities around the world. It turns out that saving species is also key to solving the climate crisis—healthy forests, healthy planet.

This year, working with our local partners, Rainforest Trust has protected over 2.8 million acres of threatened land and coastal waters—an area 2.5 times the size of Grand Canyon National Park—in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Within these landscapes, more than 480 threatened species are now protected including the Endangered Amazon River Dolphin, the Critically Endangered Large-antlered Muntjac, Blue-billed Curassow and African Forest Elephant. These acres also kept 484 million metric tons of carbon stored safely in the Earth.

The stories found in this newsletter celebrate our shared impact for species, for the planet and for people. We couldn't do this without you - thank you!

YEAR IN REVIEW

RAINFOREST TRUST'S IMPACT IN 2021

ASIA PACIFIC

In Asia/Pacific, we saved over 133,403 acres and 104 threatened species, including:



Protected vulnerable mountain forests by establishing the Khoun Xe Nong Ma (KXNM) National Protected Area in the Annamite Mountains of Laos. With our local partner, Asian Arks, we have protected what is possibly one of the last remaining habitats on Earth for the Critically Endangered Saola, often referred to as the "Asian Unicorn."

Safeguarded highly vulnerable habitat in the Leuser Ecosystem in Sumatra, Indonesia, one of the largest contiguous forest areas remaining on the island of Sumatra—and the last place on Earth where orangutans, elephants, rhinos and tigers coexist in the wild.



Critically Endangered Sumatran Rhinoceros by Adil Armaya



LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, we protected over 2,552,652 acres and 213 threatened species, including:

213 THREATENED SPECIES SAVED
2,552,652 ACRES PROTECTED IN 2021



Critically Endangered Blue-billed Curassow by Quincy Floyd/Shutterstock

Saved vital habitat in the last remnants of intact Barbaças wetlands in the Middle Magdalena Valley in Colombia, to the benefit of the Critically Endangered Brown Spider Monkey (one of the rarest primates on earth), Blue-billed Curassow (CR), Lowland Tapir (VU) and large cats including Jaguars.

Established a Regional Conservation Area at the headwaters of the Southeastern Amazon in Peru that provides critical biological connectivity in a large protected landscape and safeguards more than 50 endemic species, including Noble's Pygmy Frog, the smallest frog ever found in the Andes.

AFRICA

In Africa, we safeguarded over 144,430 acres and 103 threatened species, including:

Safeguarded the last significant swath of lowland forest in the world's newest country, South Sudan, when we created the Bangangai Game Reserve with Fauna & Flora International.

In Cameroon, we established the Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary with Environment and Rural Development Foundation, protecting forest habitat for Cross River Gorillas (CR) and Chimpanzees (EN).



Cross River Gorilla by Kit Korzun/Shutterstock





CAN YOU IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT ELEPHANTS?

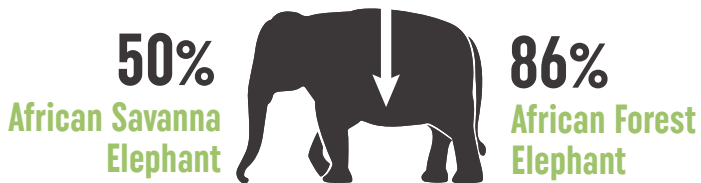
AFRICA

In March 2021, African Forest Elephants and African Savanna Elephants were officially recognized as two distinct species—but rather than a celebration of scientific discovery, this news has shed light on their fight for survival.

Across the continent, much of the species' habitat has been converted into agricultural land. This, compounded by rampant poaching for the ivory trade, has left populations highly vulnerable.

- Critically Endangered African Forest Elephant populations have declined 86%
- Endangered African Savanna Elephant populations have declined 50%

Population declines over the past 75 years



If African elephants go extinct, many other species will suffer. Elephants are “ecosystem engineers” whose activities create and maintain habitat beneficial to many other species. Feeding elephants push over trees,



creating open mosaics and woodlands. Wallowing elephants help to remove sediment from waterholes and their annual treks create miles of trails that have been used by wildlife for centuries.

Our world would not be the same without elephants. Rainforest Trust has several projects that safeguard these two species across Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Liberia, Central African Republic, Kenya, Cameroon, South Sudan, Mozambique and Gabon.



A NETWORK OF PROTECTION

LIBERIA

In Liberia's Upper Guinea Forest, you can hear the calls of the Endangered Chimpanzee and Endangered Upper Guinea Red Colobus—but these rare species are slowly disappearing as their critical habitat is destroyed.

While the Upper Guinea Forest extends across six countries, almost half is found in Liberia, and decades of deforestation and unsustainable resource use has left only an estimated 30% remaining, making its protection a top priority for Rainforest Trust.

In 2016, we joined our local partner, Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia, on an ambitious journey to save more than 1 million acres of the highly threatened region, storing carbon and safeguarding its rich biodiversity.

Our first success was the creation of the Gola National Forest Park, and now we have established two brand-new Community Forests totalling approximately 80,000 acres. The local communities in the area are among the most vulnerable in the country and supporting them to manage the forests that they have lived in and relied on allows them to preserve their land while also developing sustainable land use practices and alternative livelihoods.

The protected areas are linked, bolstering the country's protected area network. With more work ongoing, this



multi-year project solidifies our commitment to safeguard this tropical forest.

This landscape is home to endemic and charismatic species—including Critically Endangered African Forest Elephants, Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamus and Endangered Timneh Parrots—that will be protected in perpetuity.

The positive impact of this project will be felt far beyond Liberia. These acres will store more than 37 million metric tons of carbon in our planet, nearly the equivalent of the annual emissions of all the cars in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut combined.



LOCATION
South Africa



986,503
Acres



COST
\$1,465,045

INCREASE PROTECTION FOR THREATENED SHARKS AND RAYS

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is one of only three marine global hot-spots for sharks and rays, home to one-third of the global fauna. These waters host an exceptionally high number of endemic species as well as many large, wide-ranging threatened sharks and rays.

Historically, this marine and coastal habitat has been a safe harbor for species like the Critically Endangered Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, Tope or Soupfin Shark, Duckbill Eagle Ray and Endangered Spearnose Skate. But now, populations are slipping downward, setting off alarm bells for marine conservation.

Overharvesting of fish in South African waters—along with illegal fishing and the cruel practice of shark-finning—are ravaging sharks and rays. Some of the country's economic initiatives, like oil and gas exploration, sea-bed mining, marine infrastructure development, aquaculture and tourism, disturb and destroy critical habitat for dozens of threatened species.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Wildlands Conservation Trust, are establishing three new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and expanding two existing MPAs in South Africa across 986,503 acres—an area the size of Rhode Island.



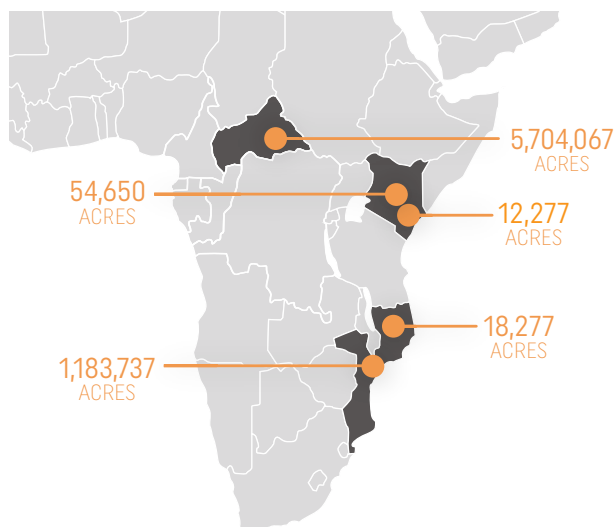


SAVE A CRITICAL SAVANNA HABITAT FOR SECRETARY BIRDS

AFRICA

The elegant Secretary Bird, instantly recognizable by its long legs and the dramatic plume of feathers on the back of its head, is one of only two living terrestrial birds of prey. Endemic to sub-Saharan Africa's savannas, grasslands and shrublands, Secretary Birds live primarily on foot and only fly to reach their nests in Acacia trees or to impress potential mates.

It's no coincidence that their scientific name—*Sagittarius serpentarius*—translates to "the archer of snakes," as snakes are the main food source for the species, who kill their prey by stomping on them or dropping them from high distances.



While these impressive birds used to roam the landscape freely, their natural range is steadily being converted to agricultural land and cattle pastures. For nearly a decade, the Secretary Bird was classified by the IUCN as Vulnerable, but as populations decline due to habitat fragmentation and hunting or capture for the illegal wildlife trade, it was reclassified in 2020 as Endangered.

Rainforest Trust is working urgently to save the disappearing savannas of Africa for Secretary Birds and all other species that rely on them. **We currently have projects in Kenya, Central African Republic and Mozambique that safeguard this species.**





RAINFOREST TRUST PLEDGES \$500 MILLION TO GLO

The world is facing a dual crisis of biodiversity loss and climate change. Seventy-five percent of the land and most of the oceans on Earth have been transformed by human impact; a million species are threatened with extinction in this century and the recent pandemic that still rages across the world and is linked to wildlife trade has killed more than 5.2 million people.

In September, Rainforest Trust and eight other organizations formed the Protecting Our Planet Challenge to make a collective pledge of \$5 billion to support the creation, expansion, strengthening and monitoring of protected areas by 2030.

"Halting and reversing biodiversity loss and climate change requires expanding protected and conserved areas, especially in tropical forests—this has been Rainforest Trust's mission for over 30 years. Developing nations and Indigenous Peoples need financing to achieve this, which is why we are pledging to more than double our level of funding between now and 2030 and are urging other private and public funders to do the same."

– Dr. James Deutsch, CEO, Rainforest Trust



Our CEO, James Deutsch, pledged \$500 million towards the creation or expansion of tropical protected areas during an event with the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People during the United Nations General Assembly.

The founders of the Protecting Our Planet Challenge include: Arcadia Fund, Bezos Earth Fund, Bloomberg Foundation, Moore Foundation, Nia Tero, Re: Wild, Rob and Melani Walton Foundation and Wyss Foundation. It is the largest ever private funding commitment to biodiversity conservation.

Deutsch added, "Developing nations are stepping up and committing to 30 percent protected by 2030 with



Lagoon in Amazon Rainforest Basin by SL Photography/Shutterstock

BAL CONSERVATION



Left to right: Dr. James Deutsch, CEO, Rainforest Trust; Ms. Zdenka Piskulich, Managing Director, Enduring Earth; H.E. Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica; Moderator - Mr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Development Programme Administrator; H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway; H.E. Mr. Iván Duque Márquez, President of the Republic of Colombia; Dr. Andrew Steer, President & CEO, Bezos Earth Fund

extraordinary leadership and courage. Now developed countries need to come forward with financing to support this. Our \$5 billion is a down payment on the planet. We challenge other private funders and especially public agencies—bilateral donors like the U.S. and China, and multilateral donors like the World Bank—to double their investment and commit now for the future of nature and people."

Together with our loyal supporters, Rainforest Trust is playing a vital role—funding the most impactful and cost-effective projects to save nature for future generations.





The Endangered Lar Gibbon, by Ayuwat Jearwattanakanok (BCST)



SPECIES AT RISK: LAR GIBBON

ASIA

The Endangered Lar Gibbon or White-handed Gibbon is so named because its sandy-to-dark brown/black colored fur is offset by white-furred hands and feet, and a distinctive ring of white hair surrounds its black face. They are relatively small compared to other apes, weighing from 15-16 pounds, but they have longer forelimbs in relation to their hind limbs than other species.

Lar Gibbons live in family units in the upper canopy of rainforests, moving swiftly through the trees by brachiating—swinging from tree to tree—and rarely coming to the ground. Like most species of gibbon, they eat fruit, (mainly figs), tree shoots, leaves and flowers and insects.

Family groups are highly territorial, strategically gathering each morning at the edges of their territory to ward off other groups of gibbons with loud calls unique to their own species and to specific breeding pairs that can be heard a mile away. They have evolved complex songs to interact with their neighbors and announce predators, with sharper “notes” being heard in songs of warning.

The greatest threat to Lar Gibbons is hunting for bushmeat and for the illegal pet trade. They are also highly threatened by land clearing for human activities. Such deforestation leads to a vicious cycle of increased access by hunters to habitat deeper in the forest.

Historically, the Lar Gibbon’s range extended from China to the Malay Peninsula and Indonesia. Today, the species survives in fragmented habitat in southern and southeast Asia, including in Sumatra, Indonesia, where Rainforest Trust and our partner Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL) are protecting 4,000 acres of vital wildlife habitat in the biodiverse Leuser Ecosystem.





LOCATION
Indonesia



2,121
Acres



COST
\$2,643,108



STORED CO₂
349,413mT
OR THE EQUIVALENT OF
75,990 PASSENGER
VEHICLES DRIVEN FOR
1 YEAR

SAVE A HAVEN FOR RARE SUMATRAN SPECIES

INDONESIA

The 6-million-acre Leuser Ecosystem is the last place on Earth where orangutans, rhinos, elephants and tigers coexist in the wild. The largest intact forest remaining on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, its rich array of habitats—from coastal peat swamps to high mountain tops—allows a great diversity of species to thrive.

However, a multitude of threats fragment vast forests these species need to thrive, including commercial as well as smallholder oil palm and timber plantations, forest conversion to grasslands, mining, and road development—all of which further exposes wildlife to poaching and calamity.

Rainforest Trust and local partner Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL) have been working together since 2016 to establish protection for critical parts of this important ecosystem. So far, we have protected 2,179 acres. Now we are working to safeguard an additional 2,121 acres of land so that over 4,300 acres will be permanently protected.

A primary beneficiary from this expansion will be the resident Endangered Asian Elephants. The newly protected acres will facilitate the migration of the elephants to the rich riparian lowlands where they feed, and herds will be able to connect with others in neighboring Bengkung Basin to ensure genetic diversity.





SPECIES AT RISK: HELMETED HORNBILL

ASIA

Although the Critically Endangered Helmeted Hornbill's intricate call ends in a harsh, cackling laugh, its fate is no laughing matter. It is heavily targeted by poachers in Indonesia and illegally traded for its prominent keratin casque, or beak, referred to as "red ivory." This highly prized commodity sells for thousands of dollars per kilo internationally—via an organized crime network—where it is carved into decorative symbols of status.

The bird's survival is further threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation. In the last 30 years, 30% of its habitat has been destroyed.

Rainforest Trust and one of our partners on the ground in Sumatra, Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL), are expanding protection to the Helmeted Hornbill's preferred habitat: closed-canopy lowland forests of primary evergreen and semi-evergreen below 5,000 feet. The largest hornbill in Asia, this bird plays an important role in the larger ecosystem in seed dispersal. The seeds of fruiting trees are distributed as the Helmeted Hornbill travels in search of its favorite food, figs.

Protecting the forest and establishing regular anti-poaching patrols throughout the reserve will ensure that the Helmeted Hornbill has a fighting chance.



SAFEGUARDING THE BAJO PARAGUÁ

BOLIVIA

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Fundación Natura Bolivia, recently safeguarded nearly the entirety of Eastern Bolivia's Bajo Paraguá forest.

During the terrible fire season of 2020, nearly 10% of the Bajo Paraguá was burned. If this destruction continued, the entire forest—an area one and a half times the size of Delaware—would have been completely lost in the next decade, taking the livelihoods and culture, the very being of the Indigenous Guarasug'we people with it.

To hold the line, Rainforest Trust and Fundación Natura Bolivia joined forces with the Guarasug'we and local governments to create the Bajo Paraguá San Ignacio de Velasco Municipal Area and Bajo Paraguá - Concepción Municipal Natural Park, saving over 2 million acres of this lowland rainforest, which also stores 337,162,504 metric tons of carbon.

The Bajo Paraguá is ground zero in the fight to save the Amazon Rainforest, and although the region has been protected, we still have a lot of work to do. In order

to ensure the safety of this land in perpetuity, our partner will train, equip and deploy patrols and fire brigades to protect the forest and the Guarasug'we.

Some additional forest loss is perhaps inevitable, but we are certain that this work will secure the remaining forest habitat. Over time, areas that were damaged by fire will be restored, and this Amazon frontier will be maintained.





VOICES ON THE GROUND: MARIA TERESA VARGAS

DEFORESTATION “GROUND ZERO” IN THE BOLIVIAN AMAZON PROTECTED

A deeply felt memory from childhood of swimming in a clean, free-flowing river brought Maria Teresa Vargas full circle, back to the small village in the forests of Bolivia where she grew up. Today, her work directly impacts water quality for millions of people in South America and helps conserve biodiversity on over 7 million acres of protected tropical forest.

Returning to Bolivia after graduate school, Maria Teresa found the river she loved severely diminished and laden with sediment. This stark reality sparked her lifelong quest to protect rivers, people and species by safeguarding lands upstream.

As Executive Director of Fundación Natura Bolivia, Maria Teresa guides the team in securing “Reciprocal Watershed Agreements” that benefit people and natural areas across entire watersheds. Their successful program balances science with on-the-ground tactics to incentivize stakeholders to protect vital water resources. The Watershed model has been implemented in 67 municipalities in Bolivia, and replicated in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico.

Rainforest Trust and Fundación Natura Bolivia partnered this year to protect 2 million acres of the Bajo Paraguará forest in the Amazon basin, where rare species like

the Crowned Solitary Eagle and Giant Otter are threatened by logging, severe fires and large-scale agriculture. The reserve protects thousands of species and locks up 337 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent.

Our organizations share a commitment to the Indigenous people whose beliefs and forest-based lifestyle make them natural allies of conservation. Working together to help them take back control of their lands and their culture brings great joy to Maria Teresa. And she appreciates that Rainforest Trust doesn't just create “paper parks” and walk away—we help local people manage these often huge reserves in a sustainable way.

She is also heartened by young people who have crossed her path in the work, including internet skincare expert Hiram Yarbrow, who was a major financial supporter of the project.

“Young people make things happen faster and channel their use of social media for good. Working with Rainforest Trust and the incredible donors who supported this project gives me hope that our forests will finally be recognized as our greatest asset.”



NATURE LOVER LEAVES A LASTING LEGACY FOR RAINFORESTS

Margaret Gordon Harley wanted to make a difference in the world. Because she cared deeply about the future of our planet, she bequeathed her family home in Ohio to Rainforest Trust. Philanthropy staff were notified upon Margaret's death in March of her generous donation.

Margaret was a true lover of nature and animals, and she reflected these values throughout her life. She was a dedicated environmentalist, and her life-long study of subjects related to wildlife and nature was evident in her extensive library of books and movies. The proceeds from the sale of her family home will have a lasting impact on projects across the tropics.

Rainforest Trust works to protect the most threatened landscapes and species on Earth, and to address the climate crisis with the most natural and effective solution available: preventing the deforestation of rainforests. By donating a retirement plan or IRA, life insurance policy—and yes, even your house—to Rainforest Trust, you will help us meet the future with more certainty as we tackle even more ambitious goals for species, climate and people around the globe.

This fall, we committed \$500 million to the 10-year Protecting Our Planet Challenge to safeguard 30% of the planet by 2030. As we work to fulfill this pledge to species and planet, your legacy gift to Rainforest Trust will play a vital role.



Visit our Planned Giving page
at [www.rainforesttrust.org/
PlannedGiving](http://www.rainforesttrust.org/PlannedGiving) or scan this code
with your phone's Camera app
to learn more.





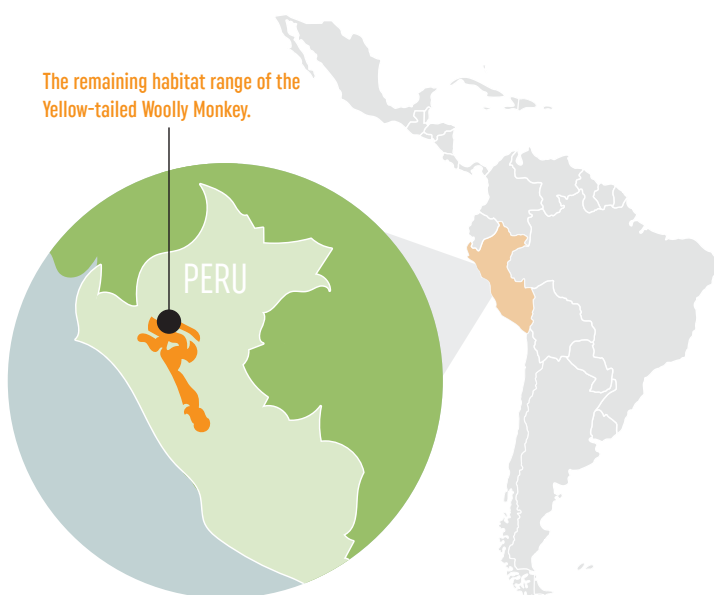
SPECIES AT RISK: YELLOW-TAILED WOOLLY MONKEY

PERU

The Critically Endangered Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey, sometimes referred to as the Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey, is endemic to northeastern Peru's montane cloud forests. This large neotropical primate relies on these high-elevation forests for survival, spending its days traveling and feeding in the forest canopy.

Over the last 50 years, the monkey's only habitat has been completely destroyed or degraded from road construction and logging, resulting in an alarming 80% decline in Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey populations. As deforestation levels rise in the region, its numbers continue to decline, putting this species at serious risk of extinction.

Rainforest Trust is working urgently on a new project to safeguard critical Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey habitat by creating two protected areas in the Peruvian Tropical Andes. By protecting this vulnerable ecosystem, we can ensure the survival of this rare primate.



Over the last 50 years, populations of the Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey have declined by 80% due to habitat degradation.



URGENT PROJECT



LOCATION
Peru



625,006
Acres



COST
\$2,124,397



STORED CO₂
103,965,164 mT
OR THE EQUIVALENT OF
22.6M PASSENGER
VEHICLES DRIVEN FOR
1 YEAR

THE LAST STAND AGAINST DEFORESTATION

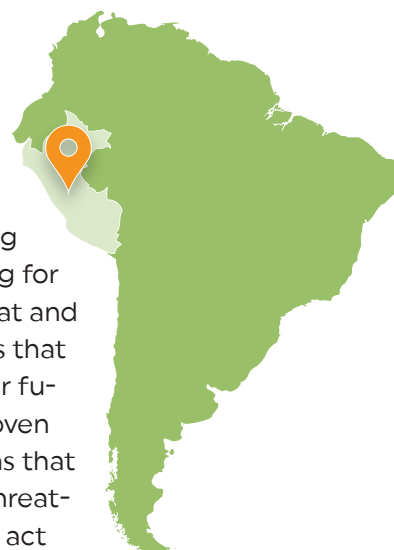
PERUVIAN ANDES

The Tropical Andes in South America is unequalled in species richness and endemism. Here, the Critically Endangered Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey, Endangered Andean Night Monkey and Endangered Golden-backed Mountain Tanager hang on in a threatened tropical stronghold beyond compare.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Nature and Culture International, are working together to establish the 625,006-acre San Pedro de Chonta and Monte Azul de Yanajanca Regional Conservation Areas in urgent need of protection from deforestation. These new protected areas will preserve vital wildlife corridors by closing large gaps in a 2.5 million-acre network of parks and community reserves.



The nearby Huallaga River Valley and Monzon Valley are among the most heavily deforested zones in the Peruvian Tropical Andes and resource extraction is on the rise. These escalating threats mean time is ticking for this fragile rainforest habitat and the rich diversity of species that shelter here. To secure their future, we will implement proven community-based solutions that benefit both people and threatened species. But we must act quickly to save these unique Andean landscapes and the imperiled species that call them home.



CONSERVATION ACTION FUND

SUPPORT URGENT CONSERVATION ACTION

The Conservation Action Fund allows our supporters to directly contribute to our most urgent projects and make a tangible difference in protecting critical habitat across the globe for life on Earth.





SPECIES AT RISK: SUMATRAN TIGER

INDONESIA

The majestic and elusive Critically Endangered Sumatran Tiger hangs on to survival in isolated patches of forest on Sumatra, an Indonesian island about the size of California. These densely striped big cats much prefer to live deep within the understory at the heart of natural forests, especially on steep slopes at higher elevations. They require large, contiguous blocks of forest to survive and instinctively avoid areas where they sense human presence or settlements.

The problem for the tiger and for all large, roaming animals facing extinction is that it is becoming harder and harder for them to avoid developed areas and the looming threats they bring. Ever-spreading acacia and oil palm plantations and intensive commercial logging steal farther and farther into tiger territory on Sumatra. The illegal trade in tiger body parts continues and is responsible for the overwhelming majority of Sumatran Tiger deaths, despite international efforts to stop it. This is quite literally the last stand for the Sumatran Tiger; only an estimated 400 tigers survive today.

Rainforest Trust has been working in Sumatra with several partners on the ground to expand protected habitat for the Sumatran Tiger in the Ulu Masen forest landscape, in the buffer zone surrounding the Kerinci Seblat National Park and within the 6.4 million-acre Leuser Ecosystem—all global priority targets for tiger conservation.

TOP LEFT: Sumatran Tigers by slowmotiongli/Shutterstock
RIGHT: Sumatran Tiger by Dave M. Hunt Photography/Shutterstock

**DONATE NOW TO THIS
URGENT PROJECT!**



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TRUST**

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