



Visayan or Philippine Spotted Deer, byBehnamkhan03



Rufous-headed Hornbill,  
by David G. Quimpo/Haribon Foundation

## Save the Last Frontier of Biodiversity on Panay Island in the Philippines

Islands host exceptional levels of biodiversity that evolve in geographically isolated natural communities, a concept called "island biogeography." The Philippines is unique in having a spectacularly high density of species, a large percentage of them endemic, living on its 7,641 islands.

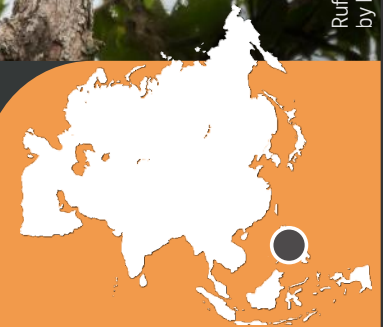
Historically, 90% of the Philippine archipelago was blanketed by rainforests. Today, only 3% of old-growth forest remains due to decades of widespread logging and mining. The Central Panay Mountains hold the largest remaining forest block on Panay Island. This "forest spine" extends north to south for over 65 miles along the western side of the island, its habitat ranging from lowland forest to cloud forest to high peaks rising to nearly 7,000 feet in elevation. It is a Key Biodiversity Area and home to threatened and endemic species like the Critically Endangered Rufous-headed Hornbill and Visayan Warty Pig, Endangered Philippine Spotted Deer and Panay Bushy-tailed Cloud Rat, and many others.

Despite its ecological and cultural importance, most of the mountain range is still not protected. Hunting, timber poaching, unsustainable farming practices, and other threats loom large on the landscape.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources Inc. seek \$1,391,319 to support the designation of 170,000 acres as the Central Panay Mountain Range Natural Park (similar to a National Park) connecting protected areas and safeguarding a significant percentage of the global habitat of several important threatened and endemic species.

### SAFEGUARD RANGE-RESTRICTED, ENDEMIC SPECIES OF THE VISAYAN ISLANDS

Panay Island is one of a group of islands in the central Philippines known as the Visayas. Panay Island is also one of only two islands where the endemic Critically Endangered Visayan Warty Pig still survives. This project will protect 18% of its global range. The Endangered Philippine Spotted Deer that once roamed the Visayas in large herds is now down to a mere few hundred individuals on only Panay and Negros islands, driven nearly to extinction by hunting and deforestation. This project will protect 24% of its global range as well as large percentages of the restricted ranges of the Endangered Panay Forest Frog (36%) and a large, endangered Panay Monitor Lizard (25%).



**170,000**  
ACRES

**\$1,391,319**  
PROJECT COST

**\$8.18**  
COST PER ACRE

**13,873,230 mT**  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

### KEY SPECIES:

Negros Bleeding Heart (CR),  
Rufous-headed Hornbill (CR),  
Visayan Warty Pig (CR),  
Panay Monitor Lizard (EN),  
Panay Forest Frog (EN),  
Panay Crateromys (EN),  
Philippine Spotted Deer (EN)



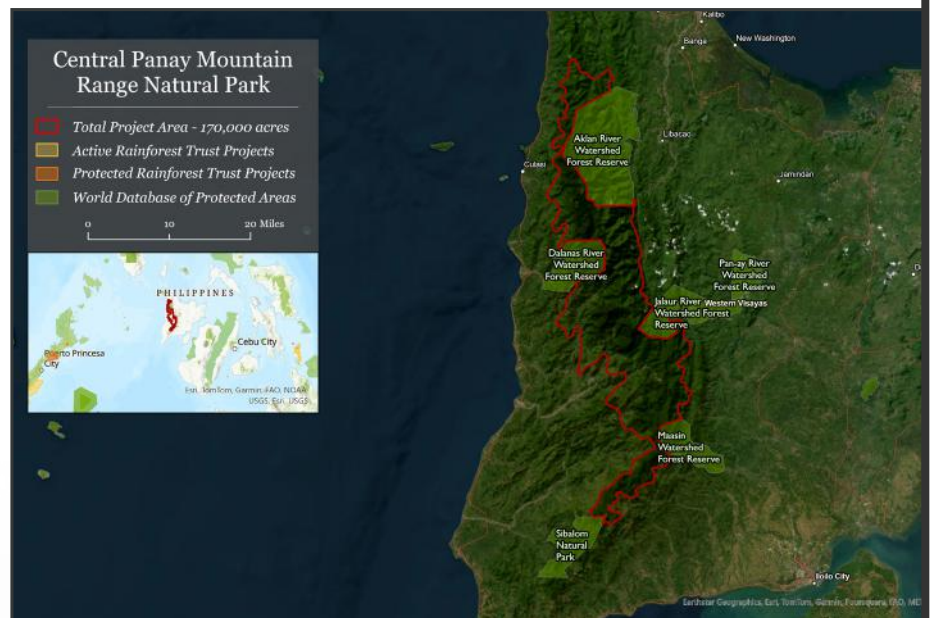


Threatened birds within the project include the Negros Bleeding Heart pigeon, aptly named for the red plumage dramatically centered on its white chest, and the Rufous-headed Hornbill, both critically endangered as a result of habitat loss and hunting/capture for the illegal wildlife trade.

## PROTECT AN IMPORTANT MOUNTAIN WATER SOURCE FOR INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Central Panay Mountain region is home to several tribes of Indigenous Peoples, and its watershed serves four surrounding provinces. Any titled Ancestral Lands of Indigenous communities with territories overlapping with the boundaries of the park will retain ownership and stewardship rights over their titled ancestral domain according to their traditional practices. Local tribes and communities will be consulted throughout the process of establishing the natural park and will be included in collaborative management activities.

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



The project area, by David G. Quimpo/Haribon Foundation

