



Jaguar © Jeff Zack



Lowland Tapir © Brian Scantlebury

Help Fortify South America's Largest Dry Tropical Forest

The Gran Chaco is the second-largest forest in South America after the Amazon. It is the world's largest "dry" tropical forest, meaning that it experiences a long dry season each year. This unique biome is important to global climate regulation and sustains thousands of animal species, including the Endangered Chacoan Peccary, Vulnerable Lowland Tapir, Jaguars, and many more.

More than 85% of the original forest cover of the Gran Chaco has been cleared over the last 30 years for industrial agriculture, particularly soy. It has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. Only 15% of intact Gran Chaco forests remain in Bolivia—approximately 30 million acres—most of it unprotected.

Some of the last fragments of the Chaco overlap the Charagua Iyambae sovereign Indigenous nation. But as soy producers and cattle ranchers flood in, time is running out to save the forest. Rainforest Trust and our partner, Fundación Natura Bolivia, seek \$1,635,000 to support the Yande Yari ("our mother one") Indigenous Protected Area of 1,389,946 acres, which consolidates an important wildlife corridor.

HELP AN INDIGENOUS NATION HOLD THE LINE AGAINST OUTSIDE THREATS

The Charagua Iyambae sovereign Indigenous nation is the first in Bolivia to attain autonomy since the Bolivian government expanded Indigenous rights in their constitution in 2009. After holding the line on deforestation for decades against outsiders converting rainforest to industrial monoculture, they are pioneering a sustainable model of self-governing and community-led conservation where they have complete ownership and management rights over their ancestral lands. But local leaders are increasingly facing incursions from colonist settlers along with larger, more frequent forest fires. Time is of the essence.

Fires raged across Bolivia in 2024. Working together, our partner and the Charagua Iyambae Indigenous nation were extremely effective in preventing fire from destroying their territories – one of the few forested areas of Bolivia to escape the damage.

FORTIFY AN IMPORTANT WILDLIFE CORRIDOR IN THE SOUTHERN TROPICAL ANDES

This project fortifies the last intact forest corridor in the southern tropical Andes. It includes the entire area of the Lower Parapeti River region and connects to the



1,389,946
ACRES

\$1,635,000
PROJECT COST

\$1.176
COST PER ACRE

140,346,204 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Chacoan Peccary (EN),
Lowland Tapir (VU)



Chacoan Peccary © Maloff

8.5-million-acre Kaa-iyá del Gran Chaco National Park and other Indigenous protected areas in the region that, combined, safeguard a total of over 13 million acres.

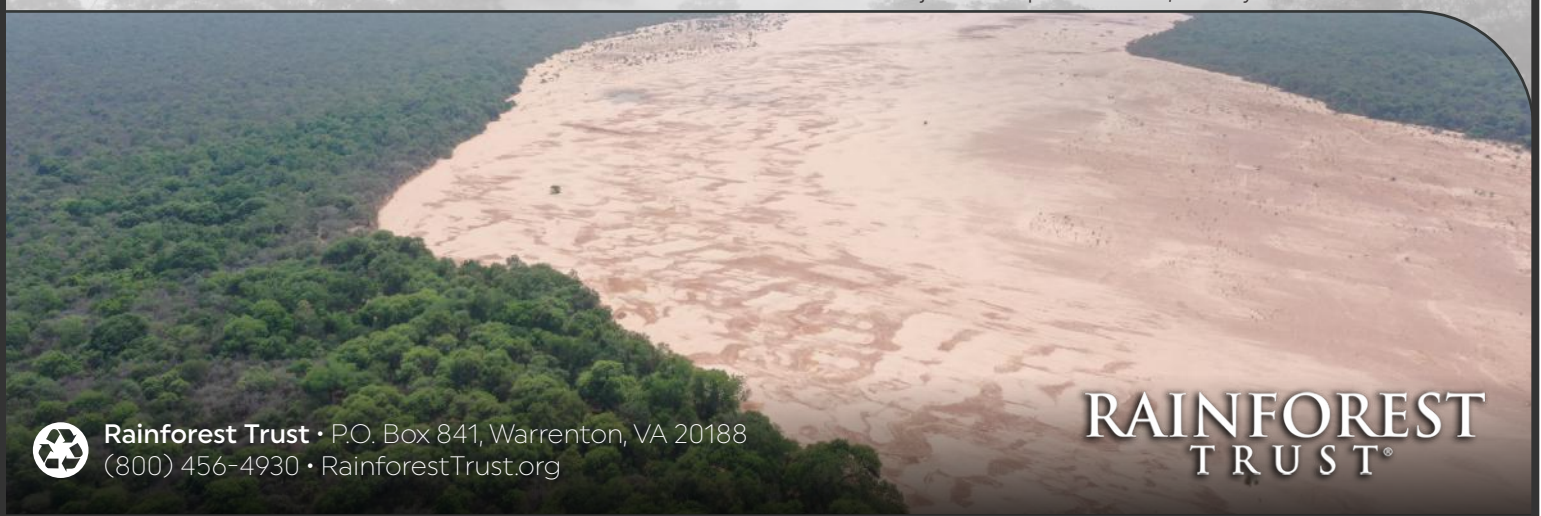
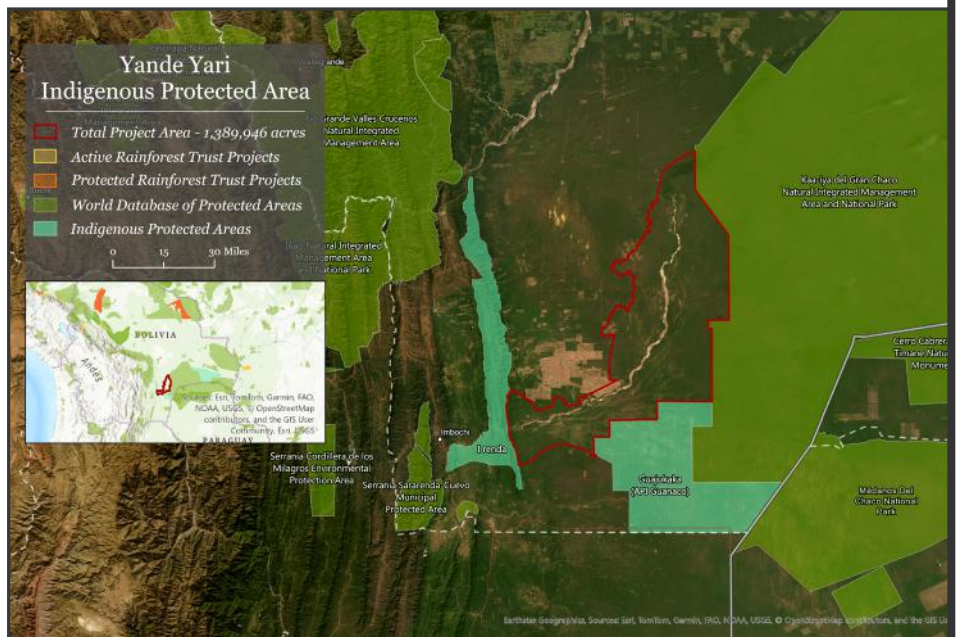
The new Yande Yari Indigenous Protected Area links three Key Biodiversity Areas—namely the Guajukaka, Irenda and Kaa-iyá—to the 1.5-million-acre Bañados de Izozog Ramsar site for a vast community of flora and fauna. This is the only water source in the region, especially in the dry season, and it is essential for life.

SAFEGUARD ABUNDANT BIODIVERSITY IN THE UNIQUE GRAN CHACO

The forested lower reaches of the Gran Chaco are home to more than 3,400 plant species (400 endemic), and 150 mammal species (endemic), including eight different types of armadillos and the Endangered Chacoan Peccary, which is suffering a serious decline from deforestation and heavy hunting. A subspecies of a llama endemic to Bolivia and Paraguay, the Chacoan Guanaco, is locally at risk of extinction, with fewer than 200 surviving in Bolivia and as few as 20 in Paraguay because of habitat loss and poaching.

This project helps consolidate the network of sovereign Indigenous territories managed through self-governance. This forward-reaching model can be replicated elsewhere in Bolivia and Latin America. The ultimate goal is a climate-resilient, economically empowered, rural human population and an enriched wildlife population across the Gran Chaco/Andes corridor.

Project landscape of Yande Yari, courtesy of Natura Bolivia



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