



Save the Angola Highlands Watershed, Source of the Astounding Okavango Delta

The bountiful waters that fall on the highlands of Angola to create what is known as the "Angola Highlands Water Tower" are the source of many major rivers in southern Africa. The watershed has extraordinary importance to human communities in dry regions of Africa as well as to thousands of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and plants. Located in the Miombo Forest, the largest tropical dry forest in the world, it is home to cherished threatened African species like Critically Endangered White-Backed Vulture, Endangered Bateleur, African Savanna Elephant and Wild Dog, and Vulnerable Cheetah and African Lion.

The Angolan water tower is the essential water source for an inland oasis for wildlife in the Kalahari Desert in Botswana to the south—the Okavango Delta. This is the largest "inland delta" in the world, meaning it receives an incredible quantity of water that never flows into the sea or the ocean (in this case, an annual rainfall equivalent to 170 million Olympic swimming pools). Instead, it evaporates, creating a water system that is essential to a vast array of life in southern Africa.

If the Angola highland water tower dries up and stops sending water to Okavango, one of the most important wildlife habitats on Earth would be destroyed. And the threats are growing: a deforestation front is advancing around the edges of this landscape for agriculture, charcoal and hunting, and oil and gas concessions are present to the south.

Rainforest Trust now has the unprecedented opportunity to support the protection of the Angola water tower. We seek \$4,467,574 to work with our partner, Fundação Lisima, to establish five Community Conservation Areas totaling an estimated 3,150,000 acres that overlap traditional domains of local communities, with an added layer of higher-level protection on 250,000 acres of core conservation areas, such as source lakes and sacred forests. The project will protect a large expanse of intact Miombo woodlands with conservation solidly grounded in traditional, community-based landscape management.

PROTECT THE ESSENTIAL FRESHWATER SOURCE FOR WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Angola Highlands Water Tower is located in the Lisima Landscape, which has an extraordinary degree of endemism and is home to an estimated 200 undescribed species.



3,150,000
ACRES

\$4,467,574
PROJECT COST

\$1.42
COST PER ACRE

296,934,976 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

White-backed Vulture (CR),
Bateleur (EN),
African Wild Dog (EN),
African Savanna Elephant (EN),
Cheetah (VU),
African Lion (VU)

