



PROPOSED PROJECT BRAZIL

Save 7.4M Acres of the Most Critical, Unprotected Areas of the Amazon

The importance of the Brazilian Amazon to biodiversity and climate cannot be overstated. It is the world's largest tropical rainforest, originally spanning 1.7 billion acres—nearly the size of the continental U.S. and home to millions of species. It is a refuge for a third of Earth's terrestrial species and stores more than 123 billion metric tons of CO₂ equivalents, more than four times the combined annual emissions of the top 10 CO₂ emitting nations.

The Brazilian Amazon is the ancestral territory and current home to over 1 million Indigenous Peoples, where they have been guardians of the rainforest for millennia.

Today, the region faces ongoing deforestation and destruction that, although slowed over the past two years under the Lula administration, continues to threaten its people, species, climate, and ecological balance. With 141 million acres of land under government control but not yet designated for a particular purpose, the lives and livelihoods of all people who rely on the rainforest also hang in the balance.

Rainforest Trust developed a comprehensive strategy for the Brazilian Amazon in 2023 to tackle the challenge, and created the Brazilian Amazon Fund to support that work. To date, we have supported the protection of over 6.5 million acres of critical rainforest habitat.

Now, we have the extraordinary opportunity to support the establishment of 7.4 million acres of traditional protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon—an area six times the size of Grand Canyon National Park and the second-largest project we've ever undertaken. The project follows the model of the Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) program that began in 2000 and has successfully supported the management of 128 million acres in the Brazilian Amazon, resulting in a 39% reduction in deforestation compared to non-ARPA areas for the period 2008–2020.

Expanding on the previous model, ARPA Communities will promote a broader range of protected and conserved area types that benefit the communities that live within them—who have been facing the constant threat of land-grabbing for illegal mining, logging and the expansion of agriculture and cattle farming for decades.

Over 20 new protected areas will be established that ensure local communities' land rights while restricting large-scale industrial activities. The areas targeted for protection in this project were selected through an intensive collaborative effort of the Brazilian government, NGOs, academics, and communities based on their importance for biodiversity, habitat connectivity, threat level, and importance to communities, among others.



7,400,000
ACRES

\$5,450,000
PROJECT COST

\$0.74
COST PER ACRE

1,332,151,241
mT CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Black-faced Black
Spider Monkey (EN),
Giant Otter (EN),
Tucuxi River Dolphin (EN),
Arapaima (DD)



SUPPORT AN INNOVATIVE, COLLABORATIVE FUNDING SOLUTION FOR THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

This new ARPA Communities Initiative will be funded through a large, community-focused initiative, the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP), spearheaded by the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The innovative PFP model combines public and private funds to secure long-term funding for conservation that, in this case, will support a network of protected areas for at least 15 years..

Rainforest Trust seeks \$5,450,000 to support the ARPA Communities Initiative, contributing to an international fundraising effort that will then trigger a significantly larger contribution in government funding. Through this project, our donor's contributions will be leveraged many times over to protect and manage a vast area of the Amazon and simultaneously support communities

The 20+ project sites to be designated represent a rich and complex system of ecoregion types across the Amazon biome—including high canopy forests, flooded forests, savanna, and scrub—that are critical for a vast array of wildlife species. Approximately 281 recorded vertebrate species have been documented within these landscapes including many threatened species like Endangered Black Spider Monkey, Giant Otter and Tucuxi River Dolphin. The Arapaima (pirarucu), one of Earth's largest freshwater fish, an essential food source for communities, will also benefit from these protections.

With the clock ticking on the current support of the Brazilian government for conservation and the unified will of so many Indigenous and local communities to protect their territories from further encroachment and destruction, it is critical that we grasp this unique opportunity to leverage funds in such a powerful way.

Arapaima © Ayumu Degoshi



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