



Lesser Bird-of-paradise © Kurt Alshen



Southern Cassowary © Martin Pelanek

PROPOSED PROJECT PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Support the Wanang Indigenous Peoples' Bold Stand Against Logging

Much of New Guinea's most spectacular biodiversity resides in the last large, intact forest covering 70% of Papua New Guinea, on the eastern half of the island. The Wanang people have lived within these vast lowland rainforests for thousands of years, following traditional livelihoods and relying on the rainforest for their food, shelter and medicine. In recent decades, they have been forced to stand their ground against powerful logging interests that hold an industrial logging concession of over 250,000 acres over the surrounding lands.

Nine Wanang village clans formed the Wanang Conservation Area in 2000 to strategically resist this commercial logging, facing off against bribes and violence to do so. Now, they are working to secure permanent legal protection of their land through designation as a Community Conservation Area (CCA), using new laws that streamline the process.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, the New Guinea Binatang Research Center, seek \$383,873 to support this government designation of 31,000 acres of highly intact rainforest as a Community Conservation Area to legally exclude it from all logging concessions and ensure its permanent protection.

SAFEGUARD A NEARLY PRISTINE RAINFOREST

The Wanang Conservation Area retains a near-pristine ecological state: 86% of the area is covered by highly intact forest. Around 550 species of trees and shrubs, 143 species of birds, and 200 species of butterflies have already been identified by scientists studying the area.

Our partner has had a mutually beneficial, successful relationship with the local Wanang community since 2004, when they were invited by the community to collaborate in research operations centered on the astounding biodiversity of the forest. As the initiative has grown, it has resulted in the Wanang Conservation Area's creation and a permanent, internationally important research program with important benefits for the community.

PROTECT THREATENED SPECIES DEEPLY REVERED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Vulnerable Papuan Eagle is at risk of localised extirpation due its relatively low population numbers and wide range, which exposes it to hunting outside of Wanang lands. The Endangered Spectacled Flying Fox is also under pressure from hunting and habitat modification.



31,000
ACRES

\$383,873
PROJECT COST

\$12.38
COST PER ACRE

7,301,497 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Black-spotted Cuscus (CR),
Spectacled Flying Fox (EN),
Papuan Eagle (VU),
Southern Cassowary (LC),
Lesser Bird-of-paradise (LC)



The Southern Cassowary and spectacularly beautiful Lesser Bird-of-paradise hold deep cultural significance to the Wanang people and today are protected from hunting. The Lesser Bird-of-paradise has known nesting and courtship sites within Wanang Conservation Area, attracting visitors who wish to observe their famous courtship dances.

SAVE UNDERPROTECTED, HIGH-CARBON LOWLAND RAINFOREST HABITAT

The Wanang Conservation Area represents an area of global importance, given that lowland rainforest habitat is underprotected and has high levels of endemism.

There is a very high density of carbon here (236 mT CO₂e per acre) and this project alone stores 7.3 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents—as much carbon as would be emitted by driving 1.7 million gas-powered vehicles for one year.

HELP INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES REALIZE ECONOMIC STABILITY THROUGH CONSERVATION

The Wanang people have been clear leaders in conservation in Papua New Guinea, and this project will support their efforts to bring together biodiversity preservation with social, scientific, and economic development through diversified and sustainable income sources like research, eco-tourism, and cocoa farming. The Wanang Conservation Area serves as a model for community-led conservation in Papua New Guinea that can—and should—be replicated across the region.

Wanang Forests © Binatang Research Center (BRC)



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