

Defend Endemic Species in the Rugged Rainforests of Papua New Guinea



SFA YUS Conservation Area Expansion



© TKCP
Vulnerable Eastern Long-beaked Echidna



© Doug Bonham, TKCP
Endangered Matschie's Tree-kangaroo

PROJECT ACRES
74,000

PROJECT COST
\$243,968

COST PER ACRE
\$3.30

CO₂e STORED
25,591,378 mT

The lush and rugged landscape of the island of New Guinea hosts the world's third largest rainforest after the Amazon and the Congo. Despite covering less than 0.5% of Earth's surface, New Guinea is estimated to contain 5-10% of Earth's biodiversity. Papua New Guinea (PNG) covers the eastern half of the island. Its slopes and valleys are home to numerous endemic, threatened species like the Endangered Matchie's (Hun) Tree Kangaroo and the Vulnerable Eastern Long-beaked Echidna, whose habitats and populations are decreasing in the face of forest-clearing and unsustainable hunting.

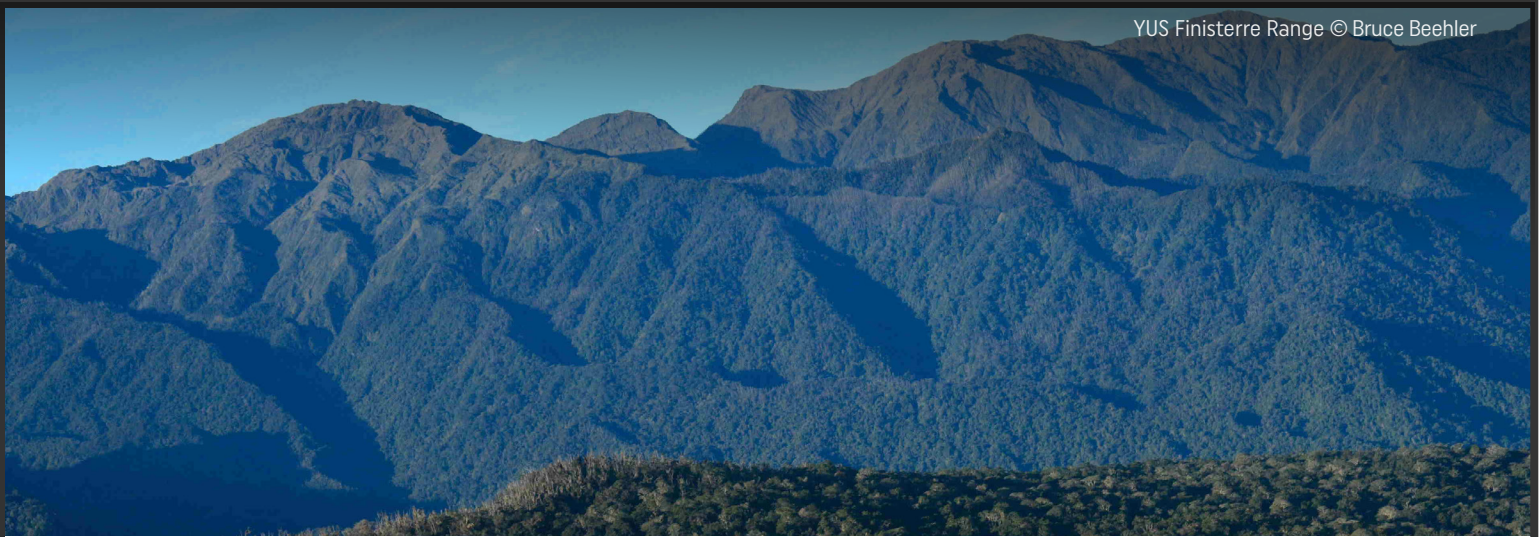
In 2009, Rainforest Trust began working with our partner, Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program-PNG (TKCP-PNG), to support the establishment of the 233,187-acre YUS Conservation Area on the Hun Peninsula in northeastern PNG—the country's first and only nationally recognized conservation area of its type that now covers

nearly 400,000 acres. It is named for the Yopno, Uruwa and Som rivers that flow through it.

We now have the exciting opportunity to support a 74,000-acre expansion of the YUS Conservation Area comprising four additional wards (villages or communities) located on unprotected customary lands adjacent to the original area. We seek \$243,968 to support TKCP-PNG in this work with local communities and the national, provincial and sub-Provincial governments.

Building on the three decades of success TKCP-PNG has had with their community-based strategy to support the traditional local stewards of the area, the new expansion will follow the same path of community consultation and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) steps, participatory mapping, development of community-level land use plans, updates to governance structures, and formal re-gazettement of the expanded boundary.

KEY SPECIES | Matschie's Tree-kangaroo (EN), Eastern Long-beaked Echidna (VU)



Safeguard the distinct endemic species of the Huon Peninsula

The remote YUS Conservation Area lies within the Finisterre and Saruwaget mountain ranges, characterized by a largely intact, primary forest. The land climbs from the coastal reefs of the Bismarck Sea to 13,632 feet in elevation, the highest point of the Finisterre Range, providing species with elevational connectivity and resiliency in response to climate disruption. The project's forests hold so much stored carbon that, if released, it would be comparable to the emissions from 5.9 million gas-powered autos driven for a year.

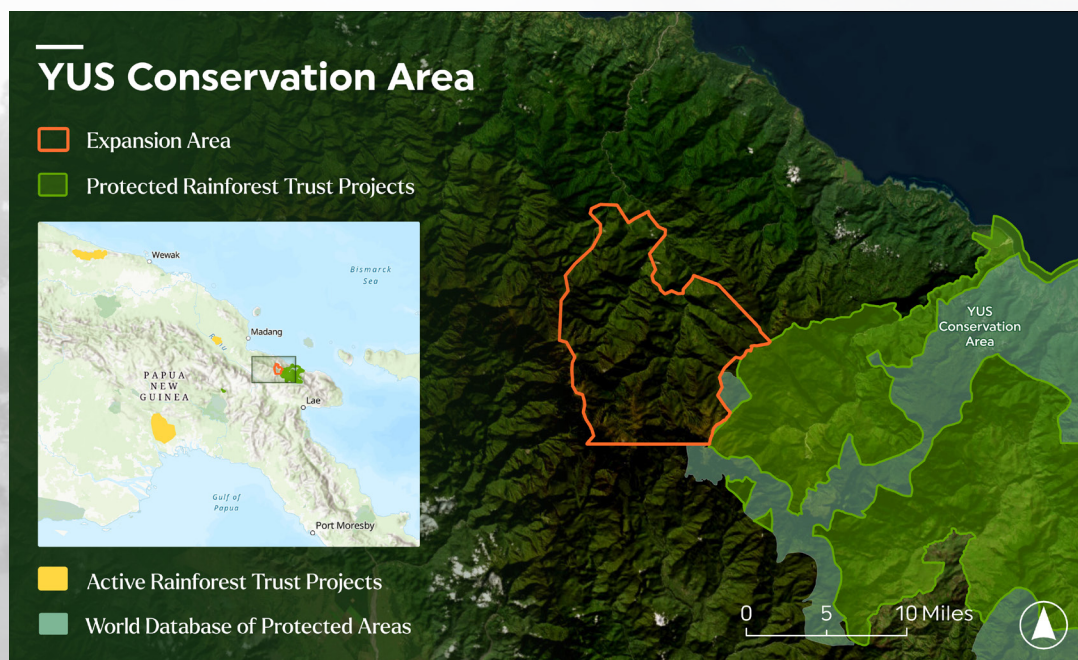
There are six species endemic to the Huon Peninsula whose small geographic ranges overlap with the proposed expansion. In fact, a significant portion of their ranges will likely be protected. They include the Endangered Matschie's Tree Kangaroo, the Huon Astrapia (aka Rothschild's Astrapia), Spangled Honeyeater, Endangered

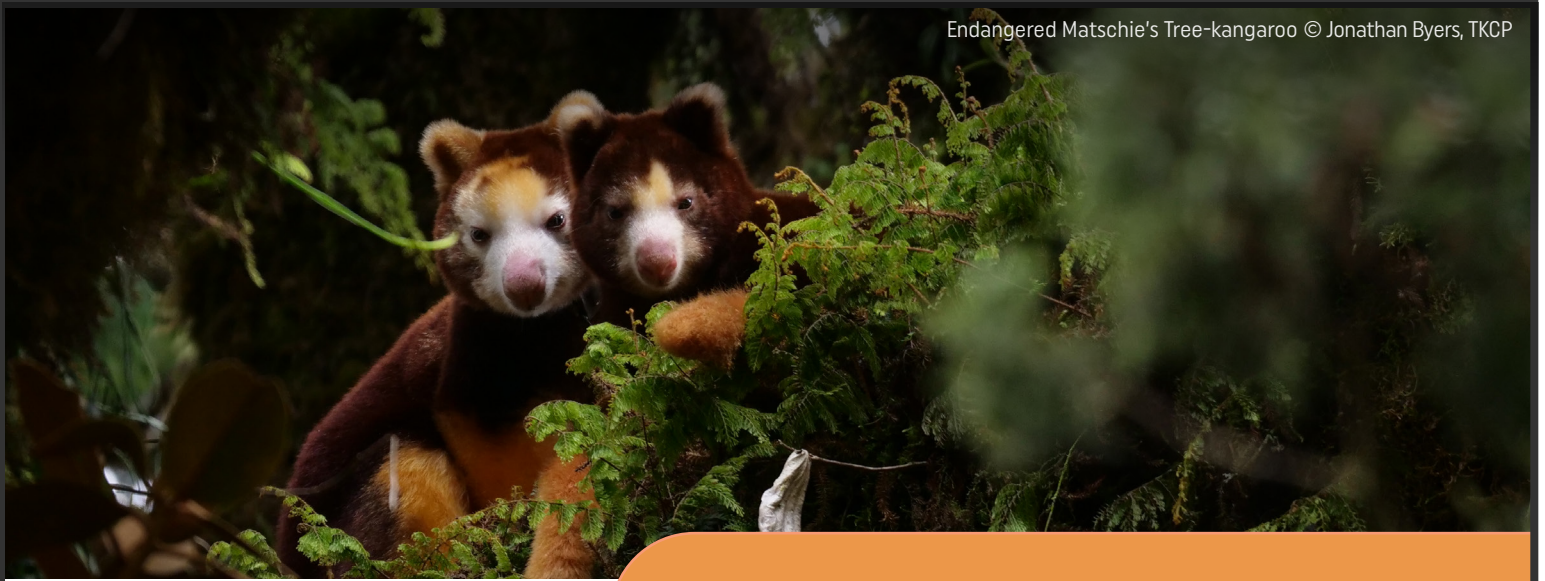
Mountain Pademelon, Emperor bird-of-paradise, and Huon Bowerbird. There are also 22 avian sub-species endemic to the Huon Peninsula.

The larger landscape is highly likely to host many as-yet-undescribed flora, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians that are unlikely to exist in any other protected areas, including orchids, weevils, and moths as well as a host of reptiles and amphibians.

Protect the sustainable customary land rights of local villagers

As in the YUS Conservation Area, the territories within the new expansion will remain under customary ownership, where subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing, and small-scale land use will continue to be allowed in designated zones under community-agreed rules. Certain areas will be reserved as core conservation zones. The protection is intended to be permanent/indefinite under national law.





The YUS Conservation Area is governed by a management committee, and additional ranger patrols will be added with the expansion. The protections will strengthen communities' legal standing for limiting future industrial-scale activities such as logging, mining, and petroleum development.

Papua New Guinea is committed to achieving its ambitious 30x30 goals, and the government recently took an important step by announcing the proposed 49-million-acre Western Manus Marine Protected Area. This project, along with our 1-million-acre Yamolo-Samaki Protected Area with another partner, will bring them closer to realizing their vision.

YUS Cloud Forest © Ryan Hawk

PROJECT PARTNER

Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program-PNG (TKCP-PNG)

Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program-PNG has been a Rainforest Trust partner since 2009. They have successfully established the YUS Conservation Area with local communities and the PNG government. Their community-based strategies provide benefits and improve the standard of living for more than 12,000 people across the YUS region. The ranger program employs and trains local people on SMART-based monitoring. YUS is now recognized as a model for protected area management in PNG and has been used as a learning landscape for other conservation efforts.

This project builds on Rainforest Trust's growing portfolio and conservation success in Papua New Guinea, where we have helped protect more than 236,225 acres with nearly 1.5 million acres in projects underway.

