



RAINFOREST TRUST

****MEDIA ALERT****

NATIONAL EXPERT AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS IMPORTANCE OF TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY, THREATS TO TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS, AND CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS.

Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO of Rainforest Trust, is a renowned ornithologist and conservationist with extensive experience in Latin America. Dr. Salaman is available for print and broadcast interviews.

TOPIC: Widely recognized as home to the most biodiverse landscapes in the world, tropical ecosystems face increasing threats as pressure to develop natural areas throughout tropical regions has mounted in recent decades. Among other things, these ecosystems suffer from extensive ranching, logging, agricultural expansion, and mining. Destruction rates are alarmingly high, with some estimates putting the figure at 90 acres of forest lost per minute.

As natural environments vanish, associated animal and plant populations have experienced devastating losses. With the future survival of many species dependent upon the existence of healthy ecosystems, conservationists have made the protection of these areas a priority. The creation and expansion of protected areas provide a range of benefits to natural systems and human economies. Beyond supporting high levels of biodiversity, these areas guard repositories of natural medicines, provide environmental services to local communities, and hold the potential to slow climate change.

SOURCE: As a leading conservationist and scientist with 25 years of field experience exploring and protecting endangered species and tropical habitats, Dr. Salaman can discuss these and other issues:

- Conservation of endangered species and habitats in Latin America, with a special focus on issues in Colombia.
- Amphibians and birds of Latin America, with a special focus on Andean countries.
- Deforestation in the Amazon Basin and elsewhere in the Neotropics.
- Resource extraction (especially mining) in Colombia.
- Sustainable development and ecotourism in the tropics.
- Establishment and management of privately owned nature reserves in the tropics.

BIO: At the age of eight, Paul met Sir David Attenborough and became enthused with conservation and natural history. By the age of 14, Paul was managing a small nature reserve in London and travelling across the UK on birding trips. As an undergraduate, Paul led a series of expeditions across Colombia that culminated in the creation of a new national park and four nature reserves. He has described four bird species new to science, including the Choco Vireo, which he discovered at the age of 19. In 1998, Paul helped found Fundación ProAves, which has become one of the most effective conservation organizations in South America. After graduating with a D.Phil from the University of Oxford in 2001, Paul undertook a post-doctoral fellowship at The Natural History Museum. He later coordinated biodiversity science programs in the Andes for Conservation International and served as Director of International Programs for the American Bird Conservancy. Paul joined Rainforest Trust

in 2008 as the Director of Conservation and was appointed CEO in January, 2012. To learn more:
<http://rainforesttrust.org/about/our-staff>

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About Rainforest Trust

For 25 years, Rainforest Trust has been steadfast in its mission to save imperiled tropical habitats through land purchase and protected area designations. Rainforest Trust's unique conservation model, based upon community engagement and local partnerships, has been instrumental in the creation of 67 protected areas, in 17 countries, totaling over 7 million acres saved. A key part of Rainforest Trust's mission is to empower indigenous people to become owners and steward of their own lands while offering education, training, and economic assistance.

For more information: www.RainforestTrust.org