Dear Friends,

In a couple of months, Rainforest Trust will celebrate its 30th anniversary. As we prepare and plan for the decades to come, we’re taking a moment to look back and survey our work since our founding in 1988.

Our mission, our focus over time, has neither dimmed nor wavered: we protect and preserve habitat to save endangered wildlife through local partnerships and community engagement. These increased threats mean our work is even more important now. This is why we have challenged ourselves to do more by saving a total of 50 million acres by 2020 as part of our SAVES Challenge.

The threats to biodiversity, rainforests and the overall health of the planet have also grown in the last 30 years with the onset of climate change. But rainforests are carbon sinks, taking up carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels, so protecting the rainforest helps protect the planet.

It is my hope that the following pages will inspire you to help us save species, care for communities and protect the planet. Together we can make a real impact.

For species, for communities and for the planet,

Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO
Look where we are.
We — the people. We — the living things of the planet.
We — the lions, the ants, the oak trees, the gorillas, the herons, the iguanas, the mushrooms, the armadillos, the kookaburras, the toucans, the cichlids, the starfish and the slime molds.
We — the forests, the mountains, the rivers, the fjords, the glaciers, the oceans, the sand dunes, the red rocks and the sea breeze.

We are on Earth, the beautiful planet.
Every planet is colorful or vast or powerful. Earth is all of these things. But life — the unique and entropic force that covers the surface of the planet — is what makes Earth “beautiful.”
We rely on our habitat as well.

Humans live in the mountains, the deserts, the rainforests, the grasslands, the islands and the tundra. Our lives, just like the jaguars, chameleons and orangutans of the planet, are dependent on our surroundings.

The Amazon offers us food by supporting pollinating birds, bats and insects that help grow our crops. The forests of Madagascar offer vital fresh water we drink. The forests of Borneo offer us shelter.

Imagine the living things of Earth —
a jaguar pawing through leaf-litter; a chameleon in mid-step; an orangutan waking up.

The curved, sculpted muscle of that jaguar is wrapped in those imperceptibly spaced spots. The chameleon’s bumpy skin blends between green and pink, yellow and blue. The orangutan’s bright orange fur frames its deep eyes.

Each of these creatures depends on their habitat.

The jaguar relies on the Amazon rainforest to hunt, the chameleon relies on the forests of Madagascar to find water and the orangutan relies on the tall, Bornean trees to nest.
But life is not just beautiful.
Life is complicated and harsh. Life is uncompromising and unprecedented. Life is difficult and immovable. Life does not let us take it for granted.

Jaguars need to walk for miles looking for food. Chameleons need to regulate their body temperature with the sun. Orangutans need to teach their young how to live among the trees.

Humans have similar needs. We sweat to grow our food and gather water. We prepare and plan for days or weeks to build our homes.

We work every day for our children, our parents or ourselves.

The hard work of every species should fit together in a seamless, evolutionary arrangement. Each jaguar, each chameleon, each orangutan and each human should be able to thrive together on this planet.
Some estimates say species are going extinct at up to 100 times the normal rate. Up to 150 species go extinct every day. Iconic species like the Tasmanian Tiger, Passenger Pigeon and Yangtze River Dolphin are already gone. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists Bornean Orangutans as “Critically Endangered.” The jaguar population is declining. Over half of Madagascar’s chameleon species are in danger of extinction.

But something is wrong.

Some people need to walk farther and farther to find fresh water. Some people are running out of affordable ways to cook their food. Some people cannot grow the crops they once could.

Since the late 1800s, sea level has risen nearly 8 inches, threatening our coastal cities. In the same time frame, average global temperatures have already increased by almost 2° F, altering weather patterns. Both storms and droughts are becoming stronger and more common.

This shouldn’t be happening.
Deforestation in Madagascar leads to species extinctions that affect the global ecosystem. Deforestation in the Amazon alters rainfall around the entire planet. Deforestation in Borneo releases massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere and warms the planet to dangerous levels. And these changes haven’t been minor. Nearly 70,000 acres of tropical forest are destroyed every day. The oceans are acidifying. The glaciers are melting. The deserts are expanding.

The interconnectedness of the planet sustains us. But it’s also what threatens us.

So what do we do?

How do we prevent species extinctions? How do we ensure a sustainable future for our communities? How do we avert climate change?

How do we realign the global ecosystem?

There are over 700 million acres of intact tropical forest landscapes left unprotected and at risk.
We go back to the root cause of the issues.

We safeguard the planet’s defense systems. We take concrete, on-the-ground, measurable actions with a lasting impact.

**We protect habitat.**

At Rainforest Trust, we work acre by acre.

Acre by acre, we protect habitat for endangered species. Acre by acre, we protect ecosystem services for communities around the world. Acre by acre, we store the carbon that would otherwise end up in the atmosphere.

It is these three pillars that guide our work — species, communities and planet.

In almost 30 years, Rainforest Trust has protected over 17 million acres. We’re already working on protecting more than another 19 million. We’ve worked in six continents and 45 countries. We’ve partnered with 119 nongovernmental organizations around the world. We’ve provided millions of dollars to conservation efforts.

And we’re not slowing down.

We’re helping indigenous communities of the Peruvian Amazon expand the Airo Pai Community Reserve and gain title to their native lands, protecting habitat for species like jaguars and preventing the equivalent of over 292 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released to the atmosphere. That’s more than the yearly emissions of 62 million cars in the United States — just in one corner of the rainforest.

In Madagascar, we’re supporting the protection of the Lost Forest — a site home to incredible endemic species such as chameleons and a vital source of fresh water for nearby communities.

In Borneo, we’re working with communities to protect forests and peat swamps around the Rungan River, sustaining habitat for Bornean Orangutans and protecting ecosystem services such as oxygen production for the whole world.

You can help us continue our work and expand our reach, acre by acre.

**Together, we’re saving species, caring for communities and protecting the planet.**
Securing a Missing Link in the Amazon in Peru

A vast mosaic of threatened peat swamp and lowland rainforest in southern Borneo, the Rungan River Peat Swamp Forest is home to high densities of Bornean Orangutans and other threatened species.

Rainforest Trust and a local partner are working to permanently overturn logging concessions and designate 385,000 acres as a permanent protected area.

Price Per Acre: $2.00
All Gifts Currently Matched 3:1 Thanks to the SAVES Challenge and Another Generous Friend

Safeguarding the Lost Forest in Madagascar

The “Lost Forest” has been isolated from the eastern rainforests and western dry forests of Madagascar for hundreds of years. This secluded rainforest sits atop an extraordinary mega quartz massif unlike any other geological feature for hundreds of miles, which may contribute to its unique flora and fauna. The first expeditions in the previously unexplored area supported in part by Rainforest Trust have discovered a wealth of species potentially new to science.

To ensure long-term protection for the region’s biodiversity, Rainforest Trust is working with a local partner to establish the 3,460-acre Lost Forest Reserve.

Price Per Acre: $206
All Gifts Matched 1:1 Thanks to the SAVES Challenge

Saving a Stronghold for the Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutan in Indonesia

A vast mosaic of threatened peat swamp and lowland rainforest in southern Borneo, the Rungan River Peat Swamp Forest is home to high densities of Bornean Orangutans and other threatened species.

Rainforest Trust and a local partner are working to permanently overturn logging concessions and designate 385,000 acres as a permanent protected area.

Price Per Acre: $2.00
All Gifts Currently Matched 3:1 Thanks to the SAVES Challenge and Another Generous Friend

Price Per Acre: $1.11
All Gifts Matched 1:1 Thanks to the SAVES Challenge

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit RainforestTrust.org to make a donation.