



RAINFOREST
TRUST®

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Rainforests affect the lives of every person on the planet.

Rainforests are among the most important natural resources on Earth. They safely store billions of tons of carbon, helping ward off climate change. Tropical forests are a hotspot for scientific discoveries, and they are also home to millions of unique animals and plants that depend on the protection of these ecosystems for their survival.

Rainforest Trust's unique model for saving acres has enabled us to protect over 18 million acres of vital habitat since 1988. We work alongside local partners to save crucial rainforest habitat and safeguard species, communities and the planet.

Our work empowers local communities to safeguard their lands.

Our work secures habitat vital to species that are at risk of extinction.

Our work halts deforestation and prevents the release of carbon to reduce climate change impacts.

We are committed to providing lasting, on-the-ground protection, as flourishing tropical ecosystems are imperative to maintaining a healthy planet. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the expertise of our partners and the participation of local communities across the tropics, our reserves are exemplary models of international conservation.

Saving Species - Caring for Communities - Protecting Our Planet

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

2017 was an incredible year for Rainforest Trust! For the fifth consecutive year, we exceeded our ambitious conservation goals: we completed projects that saved 1.3 million acres of tropical forests, bringing our total to 18 million acres.

Furthermore, we’ve taken on a leadership role for rainforests through actively participating with international conservation initiatives, such as the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership, and reaching a wider audience than ever as we showcase the importance of tropical forests for wildlife, communities and our precious planet.

I am proud to be able to say that in my six years as CEO, Rainforest Trust has seen consistent annual growth. Most importantly, as we enter our 30th year, I can say that we have made it through three decades without ever compromising our core mission to protect threatened tropical habitats and save endangered wildlife through land purchase and protected area designation.

I started my tropical conservation career in Colombia at 18 years old. At that time, the country was being devastated by crime and conflict. Conservationists and donors had all but given up on the country, even though it had the second highest levels of biodiversity on Earth. What I learned from my multiple expeditions was that despite enormous challenges, establishing protected areas and consolidating conservation actions were not only possible, but welcomed!

That experience guides our current efforts and is why we at Rainforest Trust take on the toughest challenges to make the greatest impact for saving species, caring for communities and protecting our planet – and you are what makes that possible!

We are proud to show every donor the tangible results of his or her contribution – and we are working on new ways of measuring and clarifying those impacts. In turn, I hope you will all share these results with your friends and family. Looking at the full scope of our work, we count as our partners 148 conservation organizations across 49 countries working to establish 190 protected areas. Currently, we have projects underway to protect an additional 19 million acres, which means we are on track to meet our ambitious goal of protecting 50 million acres by 2020- thanks to you!

From Australia to Borneo to Guatemala and beyond, with your help, nature is rebounding. As you turn through the following pages, I hope you enjoy looking back at the victories of 2017 with us. Our success is your success, and together we will continue to give nature a chance to thrive.

For the rainforests,



Dr. Paul Salaman

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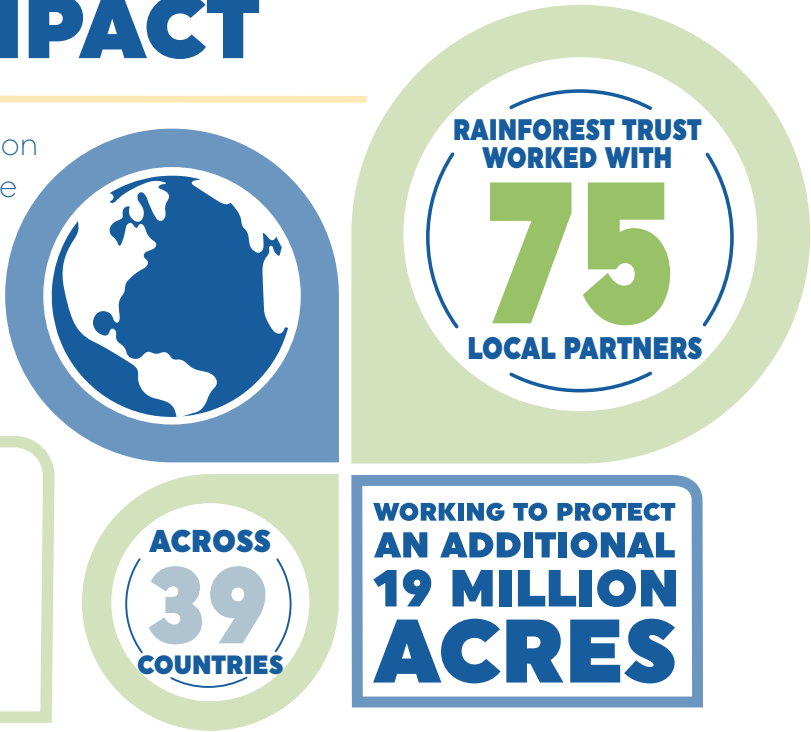
Dr. Paul Salaman

At the age of eight, Paul met Sir David Attenborough and became enthralled by international wildlife conservation. As a teenager, he managed a nature reserve in London and traveled across the tropics visiting rainforests. A graduate of Oxford University, Paul has discovered four bird species new to science over the last 20 years and joined Rainforest Trust in 2008.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Our commitment to tropical habitat conservation inspires everything we do. At Rainforest Trust, we believe in collaboration, innovation, hard work, efficiency, and putting your dollars where they count the most – in the field.

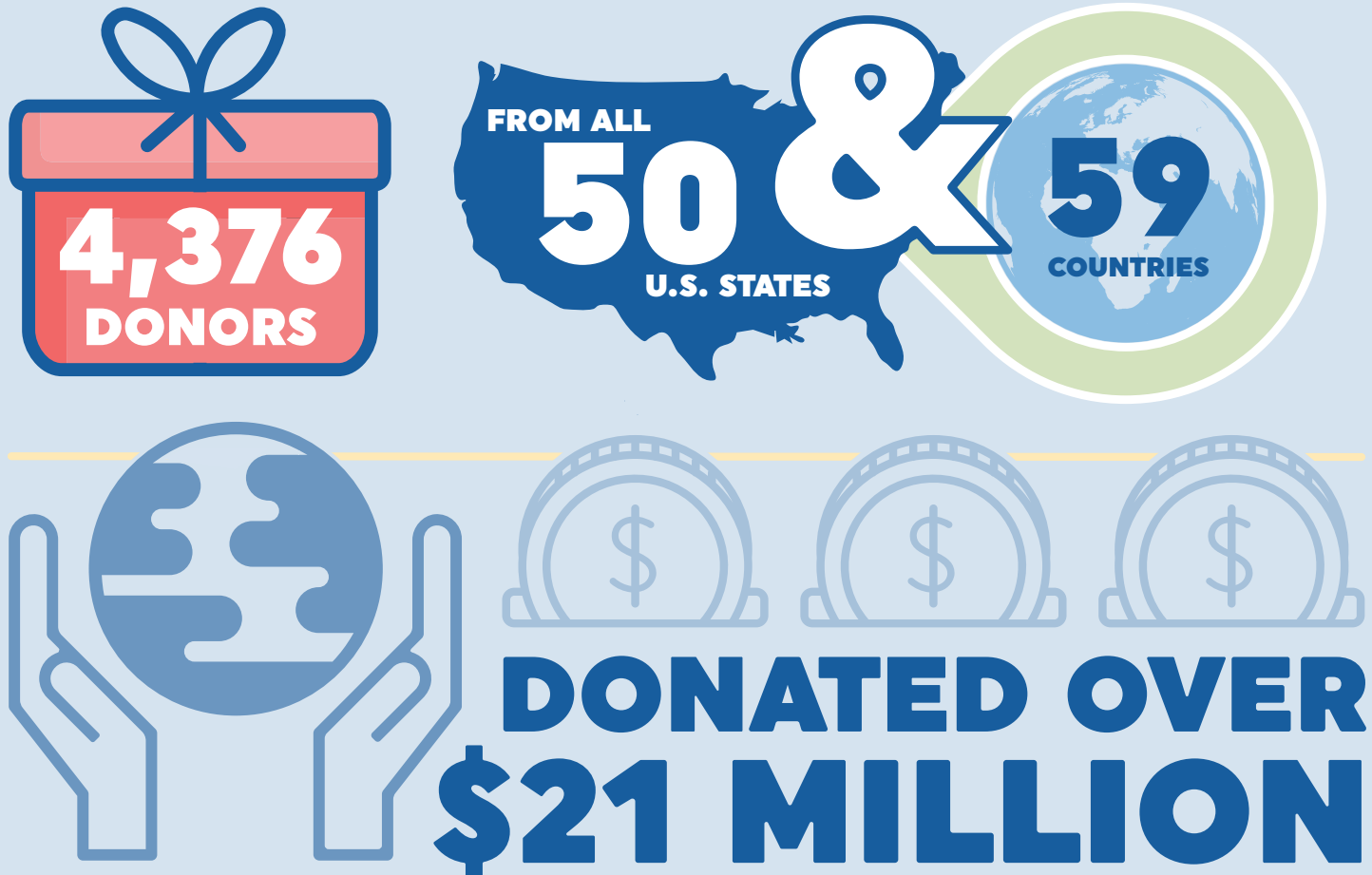
Here's how we do it –



The strong, on-the-ground presence of our partners and forest guards allows for proper land management, community outreach and day-to-day operation of the protected areas.

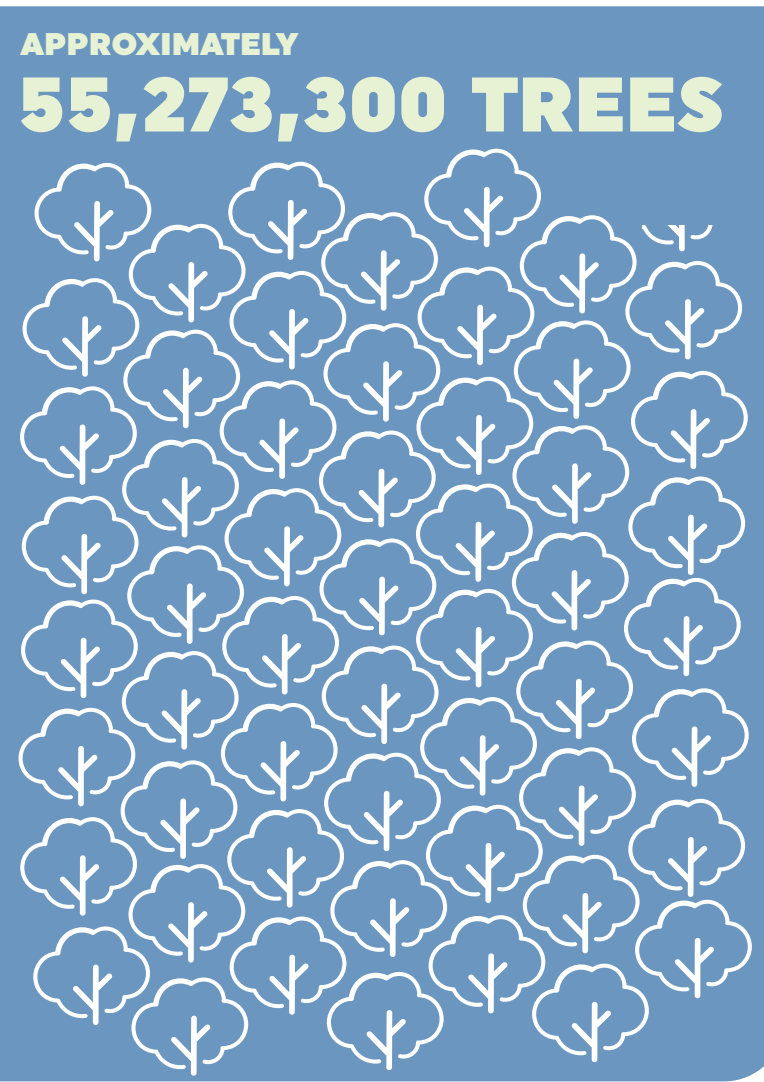
YOUR DONATION IN ACTION

100 percent of your project donation directly funds vital conservation work*



*Your donation is fully tax deductible in the U.S., Australia and Canada, and is eligible for GiftAid in the U.K.

IN 2017, RAINFOREST TRUST PROTECTED:



SPECIES



SAVING THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION



CREATION OF BLUE-EYED GROUND-DOVE RESERVE

In 1941, the Critically Endangered Blue-eyed Ground-dove disappeared from Brazil and was believed to be extinct for almost 75 years. Its rediscovery in 2015 is one of the most astonishing stories in Neotropical ornithology. But before researchers announced the shocking rediscovery, they needed to establish a conservation plan for the dove’s long-term survival. With funding from Rainforest Trust to conduct a Rapid Protected-Area Feasibility Study, the researchers worked with the local conservation organization Sociedade para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil to study the species.

They found the dove inhabiting Brazil’s rocky cerrado, a wooded savanna with one of the highest plant diversities in the world at nearly 10,000 species. As this is one of the most threatened regions in Brazil, facing rapid environmental degradation, the researchers determined that securing the bird’s known habitat would be key to saving the species.

Acting quickly, Rainforest Trust supported its local partner in acquiring a property containing a dove stronghold to create the 1,466-acre Blue-eyed Ground-dove Reserve. The local partner will patrol and fence the reserve, which will ultimately become part of a larger state park spanning over 85,000 acres.



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Brazil



ACRES
1,466



TREES SAVED
368,000



THREATENED SPECIES
9



CO2 EQUIVALENT
19,000 mT CO2



CREATION OF CERRO AMAY-CHIMEL CLOUD FOREST PRESERVE

The Cerro Amay Cloud Forest is one of the largest intact forest blocks left in northern Central America. This incredible landscape combines tropical montane cloud forest with a karst foundation, yielding a spectacular and biodiverse refuge for native wildlife and flora. Encompassing over 51,598 acres of contiguous forests, Cerro Amay is the largest remnant of these unique forests in the Central Highlands of Guatemala.

The Critically Endangered Guatemala Spikethumb Frog is a cloud forest native, and mammals found here include the Endangered Yucatan Black Howler Monkey, Endangered Geoffroy’s Spider Monkey and Jaguar. Several salamander species new to science have also been discovered in this region. Unfortunately, the Cerro Amay Cloud Forest has become an island of green surrounded by deforestation that is threatening to encroach on this irreplaceable site.

Throughout 2017, Rainforest Trust helped its local partner Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación purchase six properties totaling 995 acres to establish Cerro Amay-Chimel Cloud Forest Preserve in Guatemala. This has halted road building and logging, and the creation of this protected area also attracts researchers, promotes ecotourism and enables sustainability initiatives in the surrounding indigenous villages.



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Guatemala



ACRES
995



TREES SAVED
248,000



THREATENED SPECIES
22



CO2 EQUIVALENT
173,000 mT CO2



CREATION OF CANTO DO OBRIENI NATURE RESERVE

The cerrado biome of central Brazil is the world’s most biodiverse tropical savanna. Due to its high agricultural potential, it is also one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots: 80 percent of its original area is already gone, and protected areas safeguard only 3 percent of the remaining habitat.

In the Araguaia Valley of central Brazil, moist lowland cerrado comes into direct contact with Amazonian flooded forest, resulting in very high levels of biodiversity. Within this imperiled landscape lives the Endangered Kaempfer’s Woodpecker, only described as a species in 2006.

Rainforest Trust and its local partner Instituto Araguaia conserved a portion of the Araguaia Valley through the purchase of a 593-acre private property that encompasses Kaempfer’s Woodpecker habitat next to Cantão State Park. The new reserve will be registered with the federal government as a private nature reserve (RPPN) to add an extra layer of protection for the property and serve as an example for other landowners interested in establishing reserves on their own properties in the future.

In addition to purchasing this key property and establishing an RPPN, the long-term goal is to launch a landscape-scale initiative to work with landowners to establish a network of private reserves across approximately 5,000 acres.



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Brazil



ACRES
593



TREES SAVED
25,000



THREATENED SPECIES
20



CO2 EQUIVALENT
42,000 mT CO2



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Mexico



ACRES
43,243



TREES SAVED
0



THREATENED SPECIES
3



CO2 EQUIVALENT
34,000 mT CO2

EXPANSION OF MEXICAN BOLSON TORTOISE PRESERVE

Consisting of sweeping plains separated by low mountain ranges in northern Mexico, the Bolsón de Mapimí is a unique remnant of the Chihuahuan Desert grassland ecosystem and home to the Bolson Tortoise. This imperiled tortoise was discovered in 1959, and it is the largest tortoise species in North America.

Designated in 1977, Mapimí Biosphere Reserve aimed to highlight the importance of both the Bolson Tortoise and the unique remnant of the Chihuahuan Desert grassland ecosystem that it occupies. This area was among the first biosphere reserves designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Latin America. Unlike formal protected areas, UNESCO sites represent an area of global significance and often do not come with specific legal protection. In the case of Mapimí Biosphere Reserve, it was necessary to create a core, fully protected area at the center of the site.

Rainforest Trust and partners Habio, A.C. and the Turtle Conservancy purchased the 43,243-acre privately owned Rancho San Ignacio to establish Mexican Bolson Tortoise Preserve, a key site that falls within Mapimí Biosphere Reserve. It hosts a globally important Bolson Tortoise population that was under extreme threat from habitat loss, encroachment from cattle herders and industrial-scale agriculture.



EXPANSION OF CERRO CHUCANTÍ NATURE RESERVE

Cerro Chucantí, an isolated massif or “sky island” in eastern Panama, rises from sea level to 4,721 feet in elevation and sustains a diverse cloud forest as well as other tropical forest ecosystems. The closest peaks with similar elevation and vegetation are found at least 90 miles away; the geographic isolation of the Cerro Chucantí mountaintop has allowed its flora and fauna to differentiate considerably, such that it contains a number of locally endemic rainforest species found nowhere else on Earth. There have been many discoveries of species new to science at this irreplaceable site, including salamanders, frogs and snakes. Unfortunately, the rainforests in Cerro Chucantí are under significant threat from slash-and-burn agriculture, logging and cattle ranching.

Rainforest Trust and its local partner Asociación Adopta el Bosque Panamá expanded Cerro Chucantí Nature Reserve by 260 acres with a long-term aim of creating a broader government designated protected area. Through this project, properties were purchased to help establish an important buffer zone that will act as a barrier to prevent squatters from moving into extensive public wilderness areas and discourage poachers from hunting in the vicinity. Using forest guards and working in conjunction with the local government, patrols will ensure the forest remains intact.



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Panama



ACRES
260



TREES SAVED
35,000



THREATENED SPECIES
7



CO2 EQUIVALENT
28,000 mT CO2



EXPANSION OF SELVA DE VENTANAS NATURAL RESERVE

The Alto de Ventanas ecoregion provides habitat for rare magnolias and 13 Critically Endangered or Endangered orchid species, at least two of which are considered to be new to science. This area is threatened by the conversion of forests to pastureland, which has been incredibly detrimental to the region’s biodiversity.

Rainforest Trust and its local partner Salvamontes Corporation worked to expand Selva de Ventanas Natural Reserve by 120 acres to strategically link a vital biological corridor in Colombia’s Antioquia district. The protected expansion contains 32 percent of the global population of the Ventanas Magnolia (*Magnolia polyhypsophylla*), the most endangered tree species in the region with only 25 adult individuals known in the world. This site is also home to seven endemic bird species, one endemic amphibian species and 26 narrow endemic plant species. The Critically Endangered Handley’s Slender Mouse Opossum is likely to be found in the expansion as well, since it was recently collected less than a mile from the site.

Rainforest Trust’s partner will reintroduce plant species such as the Critically Endangered Ventanas Magnolia and Endangered Yarumal Magnolia to the expanded site. The creation of a commercial nursery will help financially support the management of the reserve.



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Colombia



ACRES
120



TREES SAVED
35,000



THREATENED SPECIES
17



CO2 EQUIVALENT
14,000 mT CO2



EXPANSION OF EL DORADO BIRD RESERVE

Isolated from other mountainous regions, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta on Colombia’s Caribbean coast is home to species found nowhere else in the world. Boasting the highest rates of bird endemism in the world, the range supports over 600 bird species, including more than 20 endemic species such as the Endangered Santa Marta Parakeet and the Vulnerable Santa Marta Warbler.

This area also hosts a stunning diversity of rare and endemic amphibian species, including the Critically Endangered Harlequin Frog. Unfortunately, following decades of uncontrolled colonization and agricultural expansion, only 15 percent of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta’s original vegetation remains unaltered.

Thanks to Rainforest Trust supporters, El Dorado Bird Reserve, on the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta’s northwestern flank, was expanded by 344 acres through a complex private land purchase. The property was owned by a family of 19, each with an individual share that had to be purchased to complete the transaction. Rainforest Trust provided technical help and support to complete the purchase, and its local partner Fundación ProAves will incorporate management of the new area with the rest of the reserve.



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Colombia



ACRES
344



TREES SAVED
124,000



THREATENED SPECIES
24



CO2 EQUIVALENT
36,000 mT CO2



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Ecuador



ACRES
1,324



TREES SAVED
326,000



THREATENED SPECIES
69



CO2 EQUIVALENT
200,000 mT CO2

EXPANSION OF RESERVES IN ECUADOR

Río Zuñac Reserve protects the lower slopes of the Cordillera Abitagua, an isolated granite mountain range that is geologically distinct from the main body of the eastern Andes. The unusual climate and geology of this area has led to the evolution of many endemic plant species. Rainforest Trust supported its Ecuadorean partner Fundación EcoMinga in the purchase of a 126-acre property adjacent to Río Zuñac Reserve in central Ecuador to bring the reserve’s total size to 2,424 acres.

Narupa Reserve is located in the Napo bioregion of northeast Ecuador, and Rainforest Trust and its local partner Fundación Jocotoco expanded this reserve through the purchase of three new properties totaling over 345 acres. The protected area secured habitat for range-restricted Andean endemic bird species and Neotropical-Nearctic migrant bird species. Rainforest Trust will continue supporting the 2,552-acre Narupa Reserve expansion to eventually connect with Reserva Ecológica Antisana and Sumaco-Napo-Galeras National Park.

Río Canandé Reserve serves as a refuge for over 350 bird species, including at least 36 Endangered Great Green Macaws that inhabit the area – perhaps the largest group in Ecuador. This reserve is also home to the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey, one of the world’s rarest primates. Rainforest Trust and Fundación Jocotoco purchased several properties for a total of 853 acres that will be added to Río Canandé Reserve.



EXPANSION OF MATAINDO-TOROSIK CONSERVATION AREA

Indonesia’s island of Sulawesi, located within Wallacea – an archipelago straddling the boundaries of Asia and Australasia – contains a mix of both regions’ biodiversity as well as many unique species. The Endangered Maleo, one of Asia’s most iconic birds, builds sand mounds in which its eggs are passively incubated through volcanic and solar heat, often in large colonial nesting grounds. Unfortunately, this leaves the eggs exceptionally vulnerable to harvesting.

Maleos also spend time in lowland rainforest foothills, making deforestation an additional threat. With a nearly 90 percent decline in population size since 1950, it is estimated that fewer than 5,000 of these birds remain in the wild.

Rainforest Trust supported its partner Wildlife Conservation Society-Indonesia in a 388-acre land purchase that will contribute to an eventual 47,328-acre protected area of nesting sites, coastal habitat, forest conservation area and agroforestry buffer zone. Some of the other threatened species to benefit from these new protections include the Spectral Tarsier, Lowland Anoa, Gorontalo Macaque and Blue-faced Rail. Additionally, Endangered Green Turtles and Vulnerable Leatherback Sea Turtles nest on the beaches alongside the Maleos.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Indonesia



ACRES
388



TREES SAVED
65,000



THREATENED SPECIES
37



CO2 EQUIVALENT
67,000 mT CO2





REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Palau



ACRES
6.8



TREES SAVED
1,000



THREATENED SPECIES
8



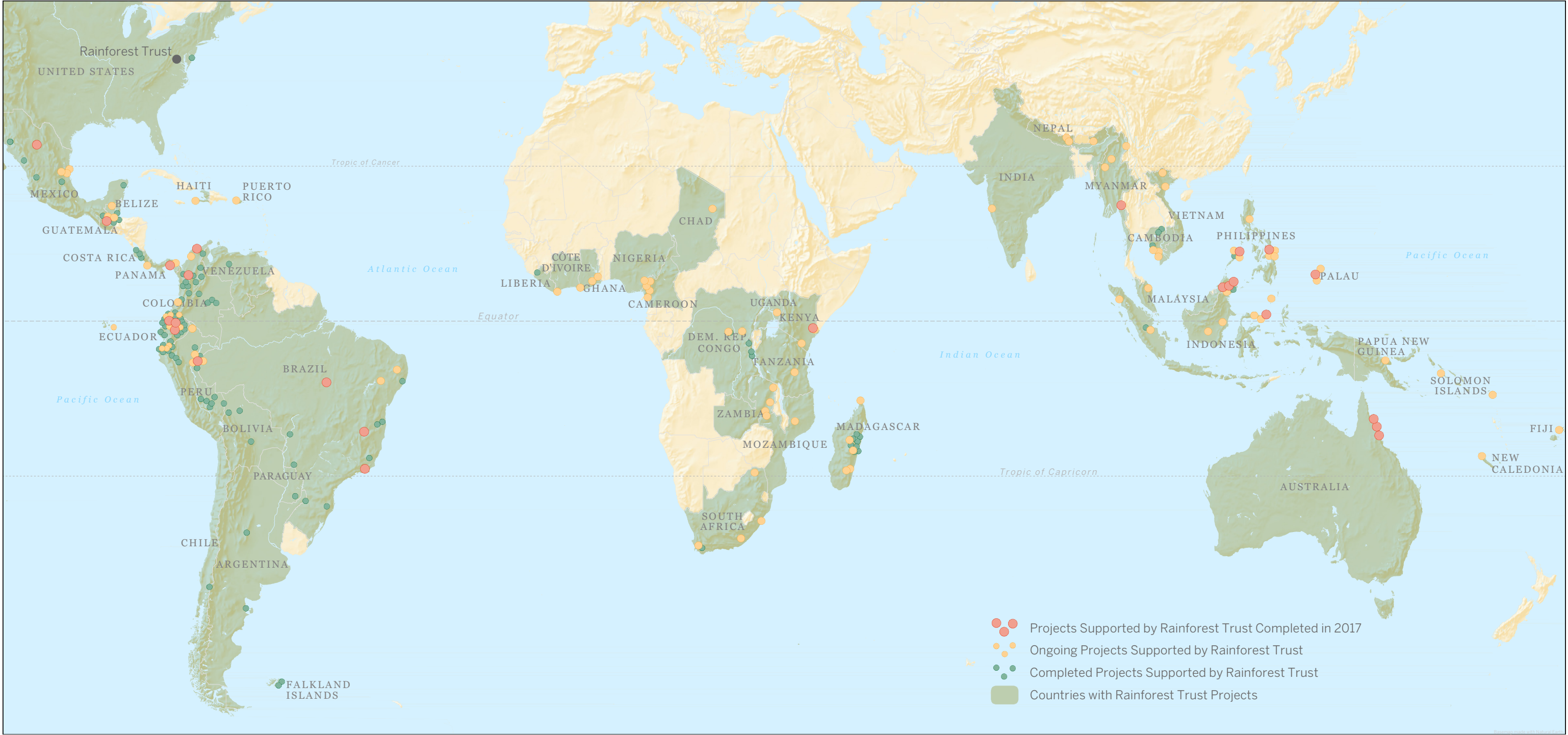
CO2 EQUIVALENT
1,000 mT CO2

CREATION OF FOREST OF HOPE RESERVE

The tranquil island nation of Palau is home to the Micronesian Scrubfowl, an Endangered bird locally known as the Micronesian Megapode. In Palau, the most important nesting habitat for this bird is found on the tiny island of Kayangel, while the island of Peleliu is a vital foraging area. Although both islands are remote, they are in danger of future development. Micronesian Megapodes are also threatened by human disturbance of nest mounds, invasive species and sea level rise from climate change.

Rainforest Trust and its local partner Palau Conservation Society purchased 6.8 acres of private land on the island of Peleliu to establish Forest of Hope Reserve. The reserve is the first private land converted to a protected area on Peleliu, and it protects a vital foraging area for the Micronesian Megapode. The site also contains a famous WWII memorial, as it is notoriously the location of the longest battle of the Pacific War. Rainforest Trust is working with its partner to purchase several more private properties across the islands of Peleliu and Kayangel for two protected areas totaling 76 acres. These will safeguard approximately 20 percent of Palau’s total nesting sites of the Micronesian Megapode.

2017 CONSERVATION VICTORIES





CREATION OF PALAWAN FOREST TURTLE RESERVE

The Critically Endangered Palawan Forest Turtle is among the 25 most threatened turtle species in the world. An enigmatic freshwater species endemic to the island of Palawan in the Philippines, the Palawan Forest Turtle was surrounded by more misconceptions than almost any other turtle in the region. For over 80 years, its true geographic distribution in the Philippines remained a mystery – until a recent discovery on Palawan.

This important discovery has unfortunately spurred a collecting frenzy to supply illegal wildlife markets. The lack of reserves and parks protecting the species has exacerbated the illegal trapping of the Palawan Forest Turtle. In addition, almost all lowland swamp forest has been converted into rice paddy fields and little remains intact, so all suitable habitat remaining is vital for the long-term survival of the species.

Through the efforts of Rainforest Trust and its local partner Katala Foundation, the municipal government of Mendoza designated 2,413 acres toward establishing a new 4,552-acre permanent protected area for the Critically Endangered Palawan Forest Turtle. This site is also habitat for Endangered Palawan Pangolins and will provide a vital refuge for the species, as pangolins are currently the most trafficked mammals in the world.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Philippines



ACRES
2,413



TREES SAVED
65,000



THREATENED SPECIES
24



CO2 EQUIVALENT
355,000 mT CO2



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Malaysia



ACRES
119



TREES SAVED
20,000



THREATENED SPECIES
45



CO2 EQUIVALENT
13,000 mT CO2

CREATION OF KINABATANGAN CORRIDOR

Borneo is the world’s third largest island and is home to some of Earth’s oldest rainforests. Many of its species are endemic to the island, including more than one-third of its plants. Bornean Pygmy Elephants, Bornean Orangutans and Proboscis Monkeys are all found in this incredible landscape. These animals are keystone species, playing a vital role in maintaining the forest ecosystem’s health as seed dispersers across their ranges.

Unfortunately, relentless industrial logging and oil palm plantations have decimated the region’s rainforests at an alarming rate. Widespread human activity confines wildlife to isolated blocks of the remaining forest habitat. A few small wildlife reserves protect some of the remaining isolated forest blocks, but entire populations of species are still separated. For their survival and long-term genetic viability, it is necessary to connect these existing patches of protected forest by safeguarding large wildlife corridors.

Rainforest Trust’s local partner in Borneo, HUTAN, had identified a vital strip of unprotected forest. Called Kinabatangan Corridor, the area links two wildlife reserves and provides orangutans and elephants with safe passage along the northern banks of the Kinabatangan River. Rainforest Trust helped its partner purchase more than 20 strategically placed properties totaling 119 acres, closing the gap between the two established reserves.

COMMUNITIES



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION



EXPANDED PROTECTION FOR SIERRA DEL DIVISOR NATIONAL PARK

The Sierra del Divisor Mountain Range stretches more than 600 miles along the Peru-Brazil border in the heart of the Amazon Basin. The region is home to 38 mammal species such as Jaguars and South American Tapirs, as well as 3,500 plant species, 365 bird species, 300 fish species and 109 amphibian species.

Over the last three years, Rainforest Trust and its local partner Center for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon helped 16 indigenous communities in Peru gain titles to their lands in this region, totaling more than 428,815 acres (83,194 of these acres were secured in 2017). By means of workshops and ongoing courses, communities receive training in organization, governance and record keeping practices to sustainably manage their communal properties.

Rainforest Trust’s support is part of a larger effort to title over 50 community territories that will form a firewall against colonization around Sierra del Divisor National Park and the forthcoming White Sands National Reserve. Together, these two parks and the surrounding community lands will protect almost 6 million acres. This is part of a multi-year, multi-organizational effort to secure a conservation corridor that spans 67 million acres from the banks of the Amazon in Brazil to the snowcapped Andes of Peru.



REGION
Latin America



COUNTRY
Peru



ACRES
83,194



TREES SAVED
16,805,000



THREATENED SPECIES
46



CO2 EQUIVALENT
17,011,000 mT CO2



REGION
Africa



COUNTRY
Kenya



ACRES
1,061,237



TREES SAVED
10,612,000



THREATENED SPECIES
20



CO2 EQUIVALENT
5,221,000 mT CO2

CREATION OF BURA EAST CONSERVANCY

In the dry savannas along the southeastern Horn of Africa lives the world’s rarest antelope – the Hirola. Even though the Hirola has been designated as a protected species in Kenya since the 1970s, its numbers have declined by more than 95 percent since 1976. Hirolas have faced devastating habitat loss across their native bushlands and savannas, and the species is now confined to only a few locations.

Rainforest Trust partnered with a local organization, Hirola Conservation Programme, to help formally establish the 1,061,237-acre Bura East Conservancy in Kenya. This secures vital habitat for Hirola, in addition to African Wild Dogs, Grevy’s Zebras, African Elephants, Giraffes and Lions.

With representation in many aspects of the conservation process, community members are integral to this site’s protection and management. Rainforest Trust’s partner continues to build infrastructure, restore Hirola rangelands, conduct surveys, implement settlement plans and compensate community members for the conservancy land. These efforts have been invaluable to the Hirola and the region’s other threatened wildlife. In addition, a future conservancy will supplement these impacts. In total, these conservancies will protect over 1.2 million acres, among the largest conservation areas in Kenya.



CREATION OF HIBUSONG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

With more than 7,000 islands, the Philippines contains a wide variety of habitats, including lowland tropical rainforest, mangroves, wetlands and thousands of miles of coastline. Smaller islands within the Philippines, such as Dinagat Island off the north coast of Mindanao, are rich in rare and endemic species – and they are particularly at risk. Dinagat Island is home to the Critically Endangered Dinagat Bushy-tailed Cloud Rat, the shrew-like Dinagat Gymnure (also known as the Dinagat Moonrat) and the Golden-crowned Flying Fox. Recognized as a Key Biodiversity Area and Important Bird Area, Dinagat Island until recently remained without any formal government-sanctioned protected areas.

Despite the nation’s incredible biodiversity value, many of its natural resources remain unprotected. Open pit mining in search of raw chromite and nickel for export threatens Dinagat Island’s wildlife, in addition to hunting, illegal timber extraction, agricultural expansion and land conversion for industrial purposes.

To safeguard threatened species, Rainforest Trust and its local partner GREEN Mindanao established the 1,390-acre Hibusong Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located on the small islet of Hibusong off the coast of northern Dinagat Island, and it is the first in a series of four new protected areas that will secure more than 17,800 acres.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Philippines



ACRES
1,390



TREES SAVED
104,000



THREATENED SPECIES
5



CO2 EQUIVALENT
95,000 mT CO2



CREATION OF KAYDOH MAE NYAW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Myanmar sits in the heart of the globally recognized Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and is a stronghold for numerous wildlife species that have become rare elsewhere in the region.

In eastern Myanmar along the Thai border, Karen State holds vast stretches of remote, pristine forest. Isolated indigenous communities have sustainably managed these areas for centuries. However, after decades of isolation, Myanmar is opening up to the global community and is attracting foreign investments and extraction of the country’s largely untapped natural resources. The rise of international exploitation, combined with a demand for illegal wildlife products, has increased the pressure on the region’s forests. Now these forests host gravely threatened wildlife species such as Endangered Asian Elephants and Tigers as well as Critically Endangered Sunda and Chinese Pangolins.

Rainforest Trust worked with its local partner Karen Environmental and Social Action Network to establish the 66,965-acre Kaydoh Mae Nyaw Wildlife Sanctuary. The new reserve protects a vital stretch of subtropical forest. The indigenous Karen community played a central role in the reserve’s creation and management. As part of the alternative livelihoods program, local villagers are being employed to conduct regular patrols of the protected area and assist in surveying the forests and wildlife.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Myanmar



ACRES
66,965



TREES SAVED
10,848,000



THREATENED SPECIES
32



CO2 EQUIVALENT
11,224,000 mT CO2

PLANET



RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF LARGE, INTACT RAINFORESTS



EXPANSION OF KUAMUT FOREST RESERVE

The rainforests of Borneo, which date back more than 100 million years, are some of Earth’s oldest and most biodiverse. In total, 15,000 flowering plant species, 221 species of terrestrial mammals and 420 species of birds are found in Borneo. Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutans reside here as well as Bornean Pygmy Elephants and Clouded Leopards.

Across Borneo, the rapid spread of oil palm plantations has exacerbated the danger posed to wildlife. In addition, industrial logging has decimated a large portion of these incredible ecosystems. This encroachment threatens the island’s endemic species and may release billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Rainforest Trust knew that it had to act quickly to stop the rampant destruction harming both local ecosystems and the global environment. Working with partners South East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership and Yayasan Sabah, in collaboration with the Sabah Government’s Forestry Department, Rainforest Trust supported the conversion of multiple logging concessions into protected areas. This effort expanded Kuamut Forest Reserve by 202,446 acres (with 34,414 acres protected in 2017). The reserve safeguards the last vulnerable flank of pristine forest in the world-renowned Danum Valley Conservation Area and stores the equivalent of an estimated 35,209,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Malaysia



ACRES
34,414



TREES SAVED
8,535,000



THREATENED SPECIES
89



CO2 EQUIVALENT
5,985,000 mT CO2



EXPANSION OF DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK

Australia’s Daintree Rainforest is one of the last fragments of the continent’s once-sprawling eastern rainforests. The forest reaches the ocean next to the Great Barrier Reef and stretches far up into the mountains to the west.

Daintree is home to mammals such as the Bennett’s Tree Kangaroo, Short-beaked Echidna and Spotted-tailed Quoll. This ecosystem has more ancient flowering plant families than anywhere else in the world. About 340 bird species live in Daintree, ranging from the colorful Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher to the gray Lesser Sooty-owl. Iconic Southern Cassowaries are important seed dispersers within these rainforests.

Daintree National Park is a crowning achievement of Australian conservation and has been declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Site. But potential development and invasive species still threaten the region surrounding the national park. As most of that unprotected land was private, the only definitive conservation solution was the purchase and protection of land to expand Daintree National Park.

In 2017, in its continuing efforts to expand protection in Daintree, Rainforest Trust’s affiliate in Australia purchased 13.34 acres of strategic wildlife habitat. This project will ultimately add a total of 59.55 acres of small private properties to Daintree National Park, strengthening the park’s conservation impact.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Australia



ACRES
13.34



TREES SAVED
3,000



THREATENED SPECIES
14



CO2 EQUIVALENT
No Data



CREATION OF MISTY MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

One of Australia’s highest priority wildlife corridors is located in the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Site on the country’s northeastern coast. The tropical uplands in this region support more vertebrate species than any other landscape in Australia. These species include the Southern Cassowary, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Lumholtz’s Tree Kangaroo and Lemuroid Ringtail Possum. Despite this region’s conservation value, it was highly threatened by deforestation to clear land for cattle ranching.

Rainforest Trust and its local partner South Endeavour Trust purchased one of the most crucial private properties to the long-term conservation of upland biodiversity in tropical Australia and created Misty Mountain Wildlife Corridor. This 173.5-acre property functions as a wildlife corridor and safeguards the remaining missing link to complete a 2.97 million-acre high priority rainforest mosaic in Australia’s Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Site.

Misty Mountain Wildlife Corridor is essential for the natural movements of wildlife across this diverse landscape, as it re-establishes a continuous stretch of rainforest from the Australian coast to the uplands. This ability to disperse enhances the capacity of species to adapt to climate change, which is projected to have severe impacts on species in tropical Australia’s higher elevations.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Australia



ACRES
173.5



TREES SAVED
30,000



THREATENED SPECIES
10



CO2 EQUIVALENT
No Data



CREATION OF CALOOLA NATURE REFUGE

For almost 30 years, Rainforest Trust has been the leader in the purchase and protection of private lands across the tropics for endangered species. The vast majority of these private lands are relatively small holdings, but the property now known as Caloola Nature Refuge, on the Cape York Peninsula of Australia, is over 44,000 acres. This property is almost entirely undisturbed forest habitat in exceptional condition with a stronghold population of Endangered Northern Quoll, but until recently it was on the verge of being sold to developers.

Rainforest Trust supported its Australian partner South Endeavour Trust in the purchase of the 44,726-acre Caloola property, preventing the degradation and deforestation of this vital site. Caloola Nature Refuge strategically connects bioregions and two wildlife corridors with a protected area network of 700,000 acres. It is a key linkage between the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Site and the proposed Cape York World Heritage Area.

The site provides important habitat for the Buff-breasted Buttonquail, Black-footed Tree-rat, Red Goshawk, Bennett’s Tree Kangaroo and a range of tropical bats. In addition, it secures water for Cooktown that is sourced from the Annan River that runs beside the Caloola property.



REGION
Asia & Oceania



COUNTRY
Australia



ACRES
44,726



TREES SAVED
6,750,000



THREATENED SPECIES
11



CO2 EQUIVALENT
No Data

RAINFOREST
TRUST®

SAVES
CHALLENGE

SAFEGUARDING AREAS VITAL TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

EVERY DAY, NEARLY 70,000 ACRES OF RAINFOREST ARE DESTROYED

Rainforest Trust has worked to combat this over the past 30 years. Through local partnerships, Rainforest Trust demonstrates that safeguarding critical habitat is the most effective way to save biodiversity.

In 2016, Rainforest Trust launched the SAVES (Safeguarding Areas Vital to Endangered Species) Challenge, an initiative to ramp up efforts to create protected areas and save the world's most threatened species. This initiative was made possible by a passionate conservationist who pledged to match every dollar raised by Rainforest Trust up to \$50 million through 2020.

This past year, Rainforest Trust created the Conservation Action Fund. A gift to this fund will allow Rainforest Trust to take action against the unrelenting threats of habitat loss when and where it is needed most. When these vital acres are protected, they also provide security for local communities and drastically reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere through deforestation.

Any gift to the Conservation Action Fund is matched dollar for dollar by the SAVES Challenge. Rainforest Trust values transparency and efficiency and has been recognized by independent charity evaluator, Charity Navigator, for its commitment to fiscal excellence for the last nine years. By supporting Rainforest Trust through the Conservation Action Fund, people concerned about the future of biodiversity and the planet can unite to make a major, lasting impact by protecting threatened rainforests and imperiled wildlife.

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The Conservation Circle is Rainforest Trust's premiere corporate giving program whose members include corporations and organizations that share our goals and values. We work with the Conservation Circle members to develop strategic initiatives that will achieve maximum impact for saving species, caring for communities and protecting our planet, while enhancing business goals and engaging employees and consumers. These gifts are also matched by our SAVES Challenge, doubling their impact. Rainforest Trust thanks the 2017 members of the Conservation Circle for their support and leadership. Combined with the SAVES match, their contributions and others inspired by them in 2017 will support the preservation of more than 1 million acres.

Chairman Level

- Endangered Species
Chocolate
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- President Level
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Director Level

- Ariel Premium Supply
BTS
Hamilton Miller
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Ka'chava

- Maria Flowers
The Modern Agent
Mystic Dreamer
One Up Components
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Patron Level

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Kitchen
Copper Branch
Darmati Eyewear
Edible Wilds
Grounds for Change
JellyChip

- Laguna Beach Textile
Company
Pohono Environmental
Apparel
Soulstice Apparel
Tapir Apps
Urban Art Chicago

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ROOTS & LEGACY GIFTS



2017 EXPENDITURES (PRE-AUDIT)

Conservation Programs	95.73%	\$19,712,862
Administration	0.73%	\$148,326
Development	3.54%	\$730,189

2017 INCOME (PRE-AUDIT)

Individual Donors	69.04%	\$14,746,779
Foundations & Institutions	24.38%	\$5,207,652
Corporations	4.78%	\$1,021,463
Other Income	1.80%	\$384,938



ROOTS MONTHLY GIVING

A tree's roots provide nourishment and stability, sustaining it for centuries. The same can be said for the members of Rainforest Trust's monthly giving program, Roots. The Roots network is made up of people around the world who demonstrate their commitment to and passion for conservation by supporting Rainforest Trust.

Rainforest Trust relies on the support of Roots members to nourish our growth as an organization, as Roots donations provide essential and consistent support to the Conservation Action Fund. Monthly gifts are automated, guaranteeing continual support with little to no effort on your part.

Over the course of the year, Roots members receive updates from the field with photos and videos of the species protected through their support. This year, we are creating Roots "hang outs" which convene members and Rainforest Trust staff at informal gatherings to talk about conservation issues.

LEGACY GIFTS

Those who are passionate about conservation often desire to have a lasting, positive impact on the world. Supporting our work at Rainforest Trust to create and sustain protected areas provides this impact on a global scale. Choosing to include Rainforest Trust in your estate is one way to ensure our work will carry on for generations to come.

Legacy gifts enable Rainforest Trust to save land that positively impacts species, communities and our planet. By planning ahead, you can balance your financial goals with your charitable interests that will result in a tangible, future conservation impact.

To learn more about the Roots program and how to include Rainforest Trust in your estate, please contact Info@RainforestTrust.org



RAINFOREST TRUST®

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