

RAINFOREST

TRUST®

Winter 2016

**RECORD YEAR:
5.9 MILLION
ACRES SAVED**

**HISTORIC NEW PROTECTION
CREATED IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Safeguarding threatened species and indigenous tribe

**NEW TECHNOLOGY ASSISTS
VITAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

Leveraging camera traps and drones in the field

Supporter Spotlight: Richard Edmondson

Rainforest Trust supporter Richard Edmondson has visited some of the planet’s greatest rainforests and recently traveled to a new location: the concrete jungle of New York City. While there, he learned about the philanthropic enthusiasm of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who contributed greatly to New York City’s most iconic public spaces and the country’s national parks.

After his visit to New York, Richard said, “I decided to rewrite my ‘bucket list’ and emulate the large-scale philanthropy of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., albeit on a considerably smaller budget!”

With this newfound charitable goal, Richard began looking for a way to benefit the conservation of tropical forests.

“You know that your donation to Rainforest Trust is actually helping to protect forests, and you can quantify the protection your donation is providing,” Richard said. “Some of Rainforest Trust’s projects allow you to protect an acre of rainforest for less than a dollar and other donors offer matching gifts, so anyone can make a big difference with relatively modest donations.”

Through his contributions to Rainforest Trust, Richard has already helped safeguard 8,274 acres of tropical forests throughout Peru, Nepal, Cameroon and Indonesia. His goal for 2016 is to protect a total of 10,000 acres, which is nearly 12 times the size of Central Park. As Richard supports Rainforest Trust’s conservation projects around the globe, he can leave this lasting legacy of rainforest protection, saving vast natural lands much like Rockefeller – but for a fraction of the cost.



Ways to Give

Online (Credit Card or PayPal)
RainforestTrust.org

Phone
1 (800) 456-4930

Mail
Rainforest Trust
7078 Airlie Road, Warrenton, VA 20187

Stock Donations
Contact us to transfer stocks, bonds or mutual funds to receive tax deductions.

Crowdrise Campaign
Start your own fundraising campaign for Rainforest Trust and invite friends and family to support your cause.

Planned Giving
Create a conservation legacy by including Rainforest Trust in your planned giving. Visit RainforestTrust.org/PlannedGiving or contact us today.

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We help purchase and protect threatened tropical habitats to save endangered wildlife through local partnerships and community engagement.

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A Message from the CEO

In 2008, I joined Rainforest Trust and a small team of people with deep passions for protecting the world’s greatest treasures: our planet’s rainforests and endangered species. I came to lead the organization three years later and am proud to say that, since then, our desire for preserving the world’s most important habitats, wildlife and indigenous peoples remains as strong as ever.

What has impressed me over the years is our great progress and conservation success at massive scale, moving the needle in the right direction against ever-increasing threats to the health and sustainability of our planet. With just a few million acres protected up to 2013, we’ve made huge leaps forward over the past three years that have transformed our impact and doubled the number of acres we’ve protected for imperiled wildlife. In fact, we’re now celebrating a tremendous accomplishment of securing more than 5.9 million acres of tropical habitat in 2016 alone - a record year for Rainforest Trust.

One of our greatest victories this year, thanks to local conservationists and communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was our creation in July of the 2.2 million-acre Lomami National Park. This expansive new park now safeguards vital habitat in the Congo Basin, which is the most under-protected rainforest wilderness on Earth, for rare wildlife such as Endangered Bonobos and Okapis.


Earlier this year in Cambodia, we protected a further 1.2 million acres of one of Southeast Asia’s last great rainforests from increasing pressures of logging and agricultural expansion. We acted quickly with our local partners to seize this exceptional opportunity by establishing two major national parks, Prey Preah Roka and Southern Cardamom, that now secure habitat for remaining populations of the Asian Elephant.

While these two accomplishments alone are reason enough to celebrate, we made additional great strides in many other places this year thanks to friends like you. I invite you to learn more about them on our website, *RainforestTrust.org*.

Looking ahead, there are many threatened tropical habitats and species remaining around the globe that urgently need protection. I’ve never felt as strongly as I do now about our growing capacity to move swiftly, marshal resources and engage on-the-ground partners toward real, substantive conservation action. I’m delighted with what we’ve achieved to date, and I’m even more thrilled that your support has allowed us to scale up our work and make even more of a difference in recent years.

Thank you for allowing us to share in your passion for protecting our natural world, and please contact us at any time for more information about any of our work.

For the rainforests,


Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO



The recently established Lomami National Park is a safe haven for endangered species such as Okapis, which are found only in the Congo.



Over 5.9 million acres of rainforests and tropical habitats have been safeguarded this year alone from threats such as deforestation, thanks to the efforts of Rainforest Trust, local partners and supporters.

Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO

At a young age, 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 UK and tropics bird watching. A graduate of Oxford University, Paul led a series of conservation expeditions and helped establish new parks and reserves in South America. He has discovered four bird species new to science.

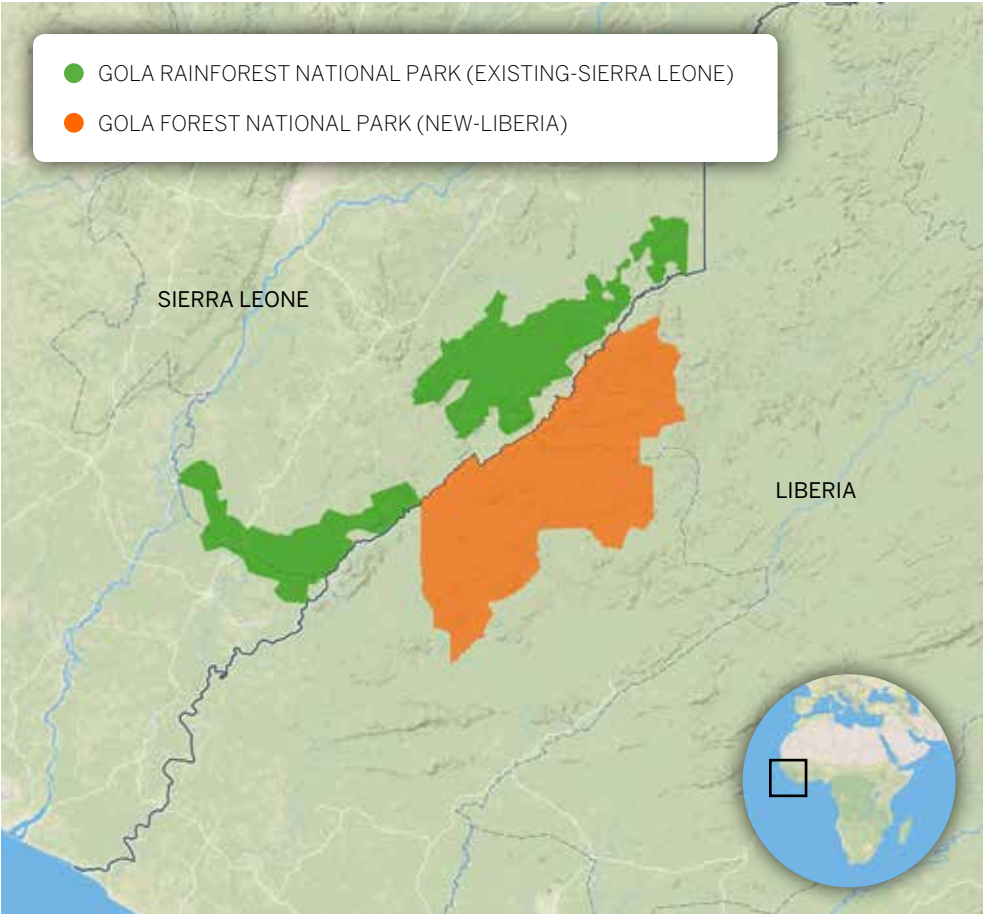


TOP & MIDDLE: TERESE HART;



New National Park Provides a Safe Haven for Elephants in Liberia

The new 219,609-acre Gola Forest National Park – only the second national park in Liberia – protects vital habitat in the Guinean Forest of West Africa, which contains astonishing levels of endemic plant and animal life.



Rainforest Trust worked with a local partner in Liberia to help establish Gola Forest National Park. Declared on September 22, the new park is part of an international conservation plan to create one of the largest protected area complexes in West Africa. By connecting to the neighboring Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone, the two areas are in effect establishing a crucial transboundary peace park spanning a total of 395,226 acres, an area almost as large as Houston, Texas.

“Rainforest Trust is proud to have played a key role in the creation of the Gola Forest National Park in Liberia, which not only protects many endangered species but establishes a bi-national peace park that strategically brings together Liberia and Sierra Leone – two countries greatly threatened by large numbers of oil palm, mining and logging initiatives in the region,” said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman.

“This is why Rainforest Trust has made it a priority to strengthen Liberian forests and why we are grateful to the Liberian government, our partner and local communities for working together diligently to create the new Gola Forest National Park to protect the area’s vital natural resources.”

TOP: PAUL GODDARD;

LEFT & CENTER: D. MONTICELLI; RIGHT: MICHELLE BENDER;



Before the creation of the national park, agricultural encroachment and illegal hunting posed serious threats to Gola Forest and its wildlife communities.



The population of Western Red Colobus Monkeys is estimated to have declined by 50 percent over 30 years, due to hunting and habitat loss.



The Pygmy Hippopotamus, which is endemic to West Africa, can be found in four countries: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

Gola Forest National Park is located in the Guinean Forest of West Africa, an area internationally recognized as one of Africa’s most important biodiversity hotspots. In total, 60 species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species are found in the area, including Forest Elephants. Facing threats from habitat loss and poaching, Forest Elephants have suffered catastrophic population declines in recent decades.

In addition to Forest Elephants, recent surveys in Gola Forest National Park have identified 48 other large mammal species. Western Chimpanzees, Western Red Colobus Monkeys and Diana Monkeys are widespread throughout the area, as well as three species of duiker (a type of forest antelope). Additionally, Liberia is at the center of the range of the Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamus, which inhabits mainly lowland primary and secondary forests. Gola Forest National Park now secures an essential safe haven for all of these imperiled wildlife species and has been declared an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International, with over 300 avian species recorded at the site.

With much of West Africa’s forests already lost to human development and less than

“Rainforest Trust is proud to have played a key role in the creation of the Gola Forest National Park in Liberia, which not only protects many endangered species but establishes a bi-national peace park that strategically brings together Liberia and Sierra Leone — two countries greatly threatened by large numbers of oil palm, mining and logging initiatives in the region.”

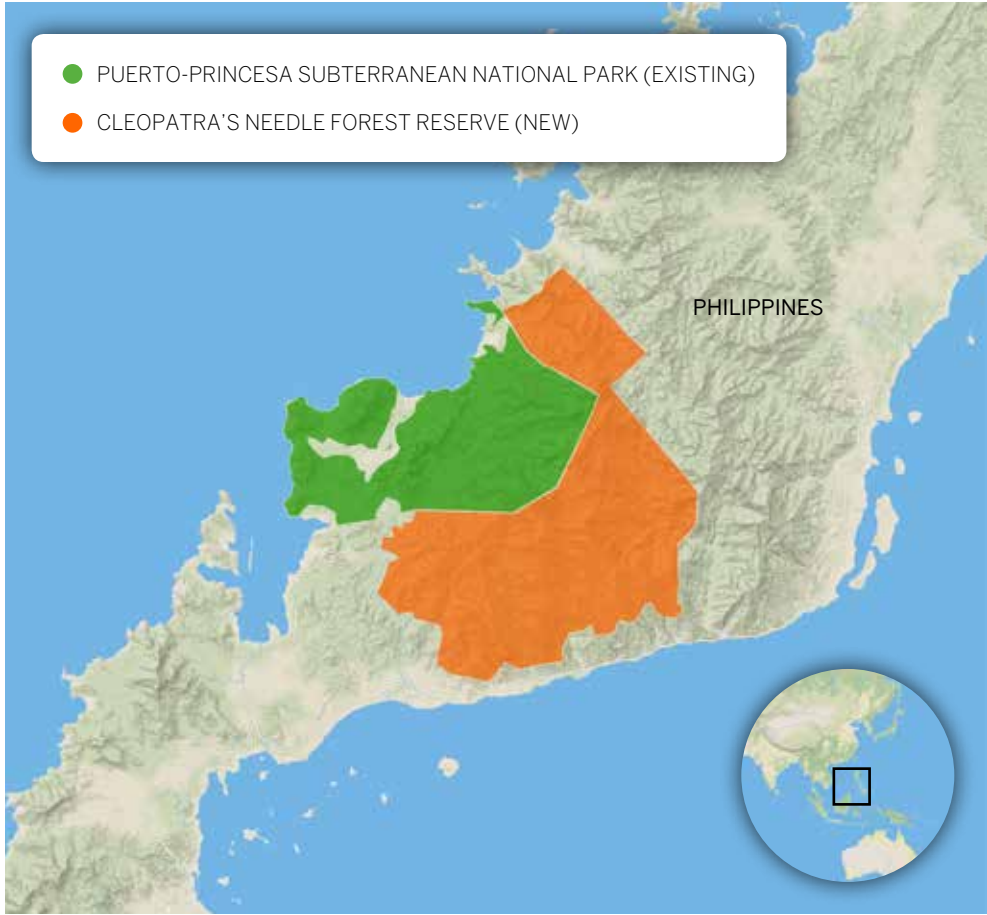
3 percent of remaining forests officially protected, wildlife in this biodiversity hotspot was previously under severe threat. Large blocks of rainforest, however, remain intact along Liberia’s western border with Sierra Leone and are now protected through the declaration of Gola Forest National Park.

Rainforest Trust’s partner Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) is committed to working with local communities to achieve lasting conservation results in this new park. Field staff already have visited with local people to ensure their education and involvement in the consent process needed for national park designation, and SCNL also has developed sustainable finance and management plans for the long-term maintenance of Gola Forest National Park.

Rainforest Trust thanks all of its supporters who helped to make possible the creation of Gola Forest National Park, especially Luanne Lemmer, Eric Veach, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, European Commission, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation as well as an anonymous donor.

Historic Rainforest Protection for Endangered Wildlife and Indigenous People in the Philippines

The new Cleopatra's Needle Forest Reserve in Palawan, the largest critical habitat designated in the Philippines, now safeguards endemic and threatened species such as the Palawan Horned Frog, Palawan Hornbill and Philippine Pangolin, while protecting the forest-dwelling Batak people.



Over 95,000 acres of rainforest encompassing and surrounding Cleopatra's Needle, one of Palawan's highest peaks, were recently declared as a Forest Reserve due to the collaborative efforts of Rainforest Trust and local conservation partner Centre for Sustainability-PH working with the Puerto Princesa city government.

This forest harbors incredible concentrations of endemic and endangered wildlife, and until the recent declaration, it was one of Palawan's most threatened ecosystems as a result of pressures from logging, hunting and rapid urbanization. Of the species that reside only on the island of Palawan and nowhere else in the world, 85 percent are found on and around Cleopatra's Needle. With such a great amount of rare species dependent on Palawan's natural environment, the protection of its rainforest has been a conservation priority of global importance.

The southern and eastern hills of Cleopatra's Needle are now a secure refuge for a population of the Endangered Palawan Horned Frog, and nearby creeks safeguard the largest remaining population of the Vulnerable Philippine Flat-headed Frog. The Endangered Palawan Toadlet, rediscovered in 2015 in Cleopatra's

TOP: ROBIN MOORE

Vulnerable Palawan Hornbills are hunted for food and sport, and their nests are sometimes raided for young birds that are sold in the pet trade.



The area around Cleopatra's Needle contains steep valleys covered with dense broadleaf forest, intact cloud forest on the peaks and tangled mangroves along river banks.

The **Endangered Philippine Pangolin** is not often seen because of its solitary, nocturnal habits and increasing rarity due to hunting and habitat loss.



Needle after not being observed for over 40 years, is now safe as well.

Nearly 60 terrestrial mammal species have been recorded in Palawan, including the Endangered Philippine Pangolin as well as the Vulnerable Palawan Bearcat and Asian Small-clawed Otter. Of 279 bird species found on Palawan, 27 are endemic to the Philippines, such as the Palawan Hornbill whose population has declined from hunting and loss of lowland forest habitat elsewhere on the island. In total, 31 threatened wildlife species inhabit the forests of Cleopatra's Needle.

In addition to providing a haven for species that are at risk for extinction, the reserve will protect territory for a local indigenous group, the Batak tribe. Originally from Papua New Guinea and thought to be among the first humans to settle in the Philippines, the Batak people now reside in small villages and sustainably harvest a variety of forest products such as tree resins and honey.

"The reserve will protect the Philippine's last 200 members of the Batak tribe and will safeguard the area from outside logging, maintaining their traditional lands and clean water supply," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman.

As part of the declaration process for Cleopatra's Needle Forest Reserve, a long-term management plan was created, forest guard training courses were implemented and ecotourism activities are to be introduced to improve the livelihood of the Batak tribe.

This project was made possible thanks to the efforts of our local partner in Palawan as well as the generous support of Luanne Lemmer, Eric Veach, Brett Byers, Leslie Santos and many other friends of Rainforest Trust and in partnership with Global Wildlife Conservation.

"The reserve will protect the Philippine's last 200 members of the Batak tribe and will safeguard the area from outside logging, maintaining their traditional lands and clean water supply."



The Batak tribe can now count on the new reserve to protect their territory from outside threats.

LEFT: CARLO GOMEZ; CENTER & BOTTOM: ROBIN MOORE; RIGHT: SABINE SCHOPPE

Final Land Purchase Consolidates Critical Cloud Forest Reserve in Ecuador

Over the past 16 years, Rainforest Trust has helped to establish and expand Buenaventura Reserve in Ecuador. After 15 land acquisitions, the final property has just been secured to consolidate the most important cloud forest reserve in southern Ecuador.

Rainforest Trust recently received notice from partner Fundación Jocotoco that it has purchased the Guzman property, growing Buenaventura Reserve by an additional 469 acres. The reserve, which now totals 6,266 acres, provides necessary habitat for the Endangered El Oro Parakeet and Ecuadorian Tapaculo, as well as the Critically Endangered Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin.

Discovered 36 years ago by Rainforest Trust's president, Dr. Robert Ridgely, approximately half the global population of El Oro Parakeets resides entirely within Buenaventura Reserve today. Since the reserve was established in 2000, the El Oro Parakeet population has rebounded by 33 percent. The few dozen remaining Ecuadorian Tapaculos have lost much of their range due to deforestation and depend on the reserve for their survival.

"After 16 years of purchasing private properties to build this amazing gem of a nature reserve, we are delighted to have helped secure the final piece of this critical conservation puzzle," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman. "We are grateful to the many supporters of our land purchase campaign who have helped us and our local partner to create a permanent cloud forest safe haven for the Endangered El Oro Parakeet and other spectacular species."

In addition to the El Oro Parakeet and Ecuadorian Tapaculo, Buenaventura Reserve also protects a stronghold site for the Endangered Gray-backed Hawk. This species is typically found only in pairs but is commonly observed in greater numbers in the reserve. Other threatened birds within the reserve include the Rufous-headed Chachalaca, Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Red-masked Parakeet and Pacific Royal Flycatcher. More than 330 species of birds have been recorded at Buenaventura, of which 34 are local endemics.

Buenaventura Reserve also provides habitat for 33 amphibian and 29 reptile species, five of which are globally threatened. Remarkably, a new nonvenomous snake species (*Synophis zaheeri*) was discovered at Buenaventura Lodge and described in 2015, while the Buenaventura Rainfrog (*Pristimantis buenaventura*) was described this year.

Sociable El Oro Parakeets are generally found in groups of 4-15, though they have been observed in flocks of up to 60 individuals.



The *Pristimantis* genus, which includes the Buenaventura Rainfrog, contains 487 species—more than any other genus of vertebrates on Earth.



The recently described *Synophis zaheeri* species was named after a renowned Brazilian herpetologist.



Continued Commitment to Saving Wildlife

To gauge the impact of Rainforest Trust's efforts to protect the planet's most at-risk species from extinction, we have worked with biodiversity experts to overlap the known distribution ranges of all bird, mammal and amphibian species with the sites we have already protected as well as those areas we are presently working to secure. The result of this analysis provides a critical metric to assess the real impact of our efforts on the world's wildlife.

Since 1988, our conservation work has safeguarded more than 15.7 million acres of vital tropical habitat, and we currently have efforts underway to increase this total to over 32 million acres in the coming years. Although the size of our reserves and protected areas represents only a small fraction of our planet (less than 0.1 percent of the Earth's surface), the implications are staggering.

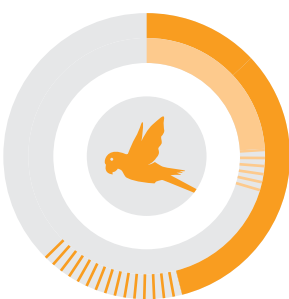
Our strategically identified protected areas now provide safe havens to a great proportion of Earth's wildlife, including an estimated 46 percent of all bird species, 30 percent of all mammal species and over 19 percent of all amphibian species. When considering the additional areas we are currently working to secure, these proportions leap to 63 percent of all bird species, 42 percent of all mammal species and 25 percent of all amphibian species on Earth. These statistics are evidence of the incredible importance of our protected areas to conserve the planet's biodiversity.

Especially considering the very modest funds that Rainforest Trust and our supporters have committed over the years to creating new protected areas, the significant proportion of biodiversity that is estimated to occur in these areas is a tremendous indicator of our impact. The analysis also demonstrates how Rainforest Trust's strategic conservation actions benefit the vast majority of life on Earth and directly address the world's extinction crisis.

This analysis of the number of threatened species that Rainforest Trust has safeguarded by helping to create new protected areas was determined using the following methodology. The number of threatened species in the analysis includes birds, mammals and amphibians because range data is only readily available for these taxonomic groups. We compared the boundaries of Rainforest Trust-supported protected areas with the range maps of species listed as threatened (i.e., Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and, from this analysis, determined the number of bird, mammal and amphibian species whose ranges overlap with the protected areas we have helped to create and are presently working to secure.

For more information about the methodology, please visit Rainforest Trust's website. Rainforest Trust is grateful to Ana Rodrigues, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive and the volunteers who contributed to the collection and compilation of the IUCN, BirdLife and NatureServe data.

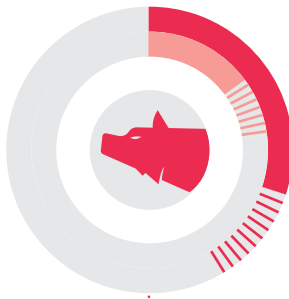
Data sources:
IUCN. 2016. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016-1. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>.
BirdLife International and NatureServe. 2015. Bird species distribution maps of the world. BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK and NatureServe, Arlington, VA, USA.



Species Protection:
Current and Future
Project Sites

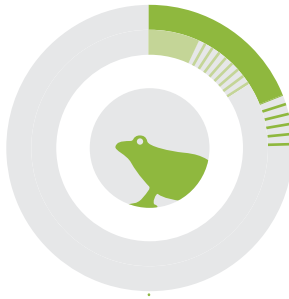
6,549 63% of all Bird Species
46% currently protected
17% in future sites

420 30% of all Threatened Bird Species
24% currently protected
6% in future sites



2,283 42% of all Mammal Species
30% currently protected
12% in future sites

280 23% of all Threatened Mammal Species
15% currently protected
8% in future sites



1,629 25% of all Amphibian Species
19% currently protected
6% in future sites

366 16% of all Threatened Amphibian Species
7% currently protected
9% in future sites

Global Expansion of Protected Areas

Since 1988, Rainforest Trust has helped safeguard over 15.7 million acres of tropical habitat around the globe. By partnering with local conservation organizations and communities to strategically identify priority ecosystems upon which the world's most threatened species depend, we have helped create over 100 new protected areas toward our goal of saving 50 million acres of vital habitat by the year 2020.

This is a record year for Rainforest Trust, having protected nearly 6 million acres of tropical habitats across Latin America, Africa and Asia. These protected areas are established through direct land purchase and acquisition, the designation of national parks and reserves, or the creation of community conservation areas whose borders are managed and maintained by forest guards to ensure lasting protection.

Some of the 2016 successes of which we are most proud include the creation of the nearly 2.2 million-acre Lomami National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and securing more than 1.2 million acres of essential wildlife habitat in Cambodia. These significant conservation wins were made possible because of the incredible dedication of our local partners, the investment of communities in preserving their environments and the continued assistance from supporters like you.

In the next few years, we are on track to save additional millions of acres. We strongly believe that flourishing tropical ecosystems are imperative to maintaining a healthy planet for humans and the millions of species that reside here, and we invite you to join us in making a lasting conservation impact.

2016 Achievements

Lomami National Park DRC 2,193,948 Acres	Tesoro Escondido Reserve Ecuador 1,226 Acres	Narupa Reserve Ecuador 226 Acres
Itombwe Reserve DRC 1,416,320 Acres	Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise Reserve Mexico 999 Acres	Guapiaçu Ecological Reserve Brazil 150 Acres
Southern Cardamom National Park Cambodia 1,014,100 Acres	Geometric Tortoise Reserve South Africa 601 Acres	Dracula Orchid Reserve Ecuador 149 Acres
Ngandja Natural Reserve DRC 783,324 Acres	Buenaventura Reserve Ecuador 469 Acres	Araucaria Forest Brazil 116 Acres
Prey Preah Roka National Park Cambodia 223,287 Acres	El Dorado Bird Reserve Colombia 344 Acres	Chamana Reserve Ecuador 59 Acres
Gola Forest National Park Liberia 219,609 Acres	Cerro Chucanti Nature Reserve Panama 260 Acres	Ayampe Reserve Ecuador 23 Acres
Cleopatra's Needle Forest Reserve Philippines 95,610 Acres	Hoge's Side-necked Turtle Reserve Brazil 236 Acres	



Strategic Land Purchase in Panama Protects a “Sky Island” for Threatened Amphibians

Cerro Chucantí Nature Reserve in Panama has been expanded by 260 acres and safeguards critical habitats for newly discovered species, thanks to Rainforest Trust’s local partner Asociación Adopta el Bosque Panamá (ADOPTA), the International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC), donors and other supporters.

In December 2016, Rainforest Trust’s partner ADOPTA secured 260 acres to expand Cerro Chucantí Nature Reserve in eastern Panama. Three land properties were purchased to establish an important buffer zone that will act as a barrier to prevent squatters from moving into extensive public wilderness areas and to discourage poachers from hunting in the vicinity.

“This initiative that first started with 100 acres of rainforest purchased has grown to almost 1,500 acres of rainforest that we’re protecting now,” said Guido Berguido, Executive Director of ADOPTA. “With the help of Rainforest Trust, we have been increasing more and more of the protected areas.”

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.

Cerro Chucantí is home to many species new to science, and there is a high potential for many more to be identified. In 2008, the dark

brown Chucantí Salamander (*Bolitoglossa chucantiensis*) was discovered in this area, and a new frog species called Majeen’s Dink Frog (*Diasporus majeensis* sp. nov.) was found there and formally described in 2016. This chestnut-colored frog with red markings received its name from the genus’ characteristic ‘dink’ call, though this specific species’ sound is more reminiscent of a whistle.

“This site of Cerro Chucantí has turned out to be far more exceptional than we ever dreamed,” said Berguido. “More than 20 new species of plants and animals have been found at this location that are found nowhere else on Earth.”

There are still two species of snakes, at least three frogs, one salamander and over a dozen species of ants awaiting formal description. Cerro Chucantí is also home to a number of species recognized as being at high-risk for extinction, including the Great Green Macaw, Baird’s Tapir, Giant Anteater and the Critically Endangered Black-headed Spider Monkey.

Despite their incredible biodiversity, the rainforests in Cerro Chucantí are under significant threat from slash-and-burn activities, logging and cattle ranching. During this year’s long dry season, forest destruction and conversion to pasture land continued near Cerro Chucantí Nature Reserve. The

new strategic expansion of the reserve secures a section of the forest and prevents further clearing, especially as new colonists are encroaching on thousands of acres of unclaimed land. As a gateway to over 60,000 acres of public lands, Cerro Chucantí Nature Reserve is laying the foundation for the designation of government protected areas, an effort ADOPTA is working hard to achieve with the support of Rainforest Trust.



The expansion of Cerro Chucanti Nature Reserve safeguards vital cloud forest for many rare and newly discovered species from threats such as logging, cattle ranching and slash-and-burn activities.

Learning by Hart: Exploration and Conservation in the Congo Basin



Rainforest Trust collaborates with passionate conservationists around the world who dedicate their lives to protecting threatened species and their habitats. Two inspiring partners are Terese and John Hart, who work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and who, with support from Rainforest Trust, played a key role in the recent declaration of the new Lomami National Park.

The time had come to wake up the forest.

The Mbuti Pygmies’ deep, echoing vocals announced the presence of something out of the ordinary from their daily experience of forest life. Conservationist Terese Hart recalled listening to the sonorous melody as she drifted to sleep with her daughter Sarah at their home and research site on the bank of the Congo’s Epulu River, while her husband John remained by the campfire with the Mbuti tribe.

“The song was so full of life... it reached out across the darkened river... it was a resonating echo by the edge of the forest, it penetrated deep through the trees,” Terese wrote in her autobiography *Ituri Story*.

“The forest was awake and listening.”

Terese and John met at Minnesota’s Carleton College in the autumn of 1969, a time when the Vietnam War seeped into every aspect of student life. Amid the political turmoil, John, an avid bird watcher, viewed the world from a different perspective: through the lenses of binoculars. Terese joined John on his birding trips, and while reverently silent together in the field, they passionately discussed politics once back on campus. With a shared interest in community relations, Terese and John took an anthropology class where they learned about the Mbuti Pygmies of the Ituri Forest in what was then named the Republic of Zaire, and is currently the DRC. This, too, added a different angle to the pressing war sentiment.

“The Mbuti communities lived in an apparent peace so different from the West: close to nature, material simplicity, non-aggressive,” Terese wrote. “This was a perfect vision for a generation that doubted the material wealth we grew into and felt thrust into a war on the other side of the world.”

John had the opportunity to learn firsthand about this Zairian community through a fellowship that provided funding for finishing undergraduates to pursue a self-guided project outside of the United States. Accepted into the program, John packed his bags and left for the Ituri Forest in northeastern Zaire after graduation. Still at Carleton, but planning for her post-graduation work, Terese applied to the Peace Corps and was assigned a teaching position. Her placement? Zaire.

“I delayed a year,” Terese wrote. “It seemed too much like a pre-written script to follow on [John’s] heels.”

Still recovering from the ache of Belgian rule, the newly independent Zaire had been subjected to a series of conflicts during the early 1960s. Terese’s 1974 work with the Peace Corps began in Bukavu in eastern

Zaire, in a section of town that still showed the grandeur of the colonial period with its stucco houses and stately gardens. A month into her assignment, and more than a year and a half since they had last seen each other, John rode from the Ituri Forest atop a cargo truck transporting beans and cassava flour to visit.

John described to Terese how he had immersed himself in the forest to see how life had changed for the Mbuti Pygmies during the time of political instability. He witnessed how certain impacts, such as road closures, had swept through the region, making life more difficult for the inhabitants, but not directly influencing Mbuti culture. Instead, John had begun to see changes coming from eastern population expansion into the forest. Encroachment, not war, seemed more likely to threaten the Mbuti way of life.

John stayed in Bukavu for a few weeks before returning to the Ituri Forest, and reunited with Terese in 1975. The couple embarked on a two-month bicycle trip along the biodiverse Albertine Rift during Terese’s school break, swerving in and out of the lowland and montane forests. One evening, as the two sat under the stars and poked at embers in the fading fire, John proposed.

After the end of John’s grant and Terese’s Peace Corps assignment, the couple returned to the U.S. and enrolled in Michigan State University. Terese’s graduate studies focused on the dominant trees of the Ituri Forest, and John’s research concentrated on game animals hunted by the Mbuti, specifically small forest antelopes called duikers. While they were “part-time students, part-time laborers and plotting full-time a return to the Congo,” Terese and John were married, their first daughter, Sarah, was born and their Ituri Forest flora and fauna dissertation projects received funding. The Harts were heading back to

LEFT: ANAND VARMA; RIGHT: TERESE HART.



John, Terese and their assistant Kenge record Okapi feeding signs in 1987.

Zaire, this time with one arm full of research papers and a small, wide-eyed girl holding on to the other.

After driving an aged Land Cruiser through the dirt roads and villages of Zaire, the Harts settled in northeastern Epulu near the Ituri Forest, an area used as an Okapi capture station by the colonial Belgians in the 1950s. After the country gained independence, the Zairian Park’s Institute maintained the station to house Okapis, herbivores closely related to giraffes that are the size of horses with zebra-like markings on their legs. Epulu, with its proximity to the station and Ituri Forest, was the ideal location for John’s studies of how hunting pressures and diet affected wildlife in the area.

Outside the station and into the Ituri Forest, the Harts followed the Mbuti’s hunting movements to collect information about forest game such as duikers. Though focused on the species, the Harts also had the opportunity to learn about the Mbuti’s relationship to the forest, and they formed close bonds with the indigenous community. They found that while the prevailing Western assumption had been that the Mbuti were completely dependent on the Ituri Forest, the reality was much less simplistic. Though agricultural development in the form of encroaching gardens cut away at the forest edge from an indigenous farming tribe, it did not directly undermine Mbuti forest life. The Mbuti had established relationships with indigenous farmers, who harvested agricultural produce and exchanged the goods with the Mbuti for forest game and protection.

“It was a very symbiotic relationship... between the [different] ethnicities, where the ethnicities worked together but maintained a certain division of labor,” Terese said.

While the Harts learned about the Ituri Forest wildlife as well as the Mbuti community, they also focused on Terese’s dissertation research, which involved comparing forest plots and tree cataloging. As they measured the growth of the forest, the couple also nurtured the growth of their daughter Sarah. While in Epulu, Terese gave birth to their second child, Rebekah, and John announced, “It’s a *museka* [girl]!” The Harts remained in Zaire until 1983, when they returned to the U.S. after completing their fieldwork.

“Although we had more than enough in our notebooks to complete dissertations, we easily admitted we had barely touched the mysteries

of forest duff [floor], forest canopy and all the living energy in between,” wrote Terese.

Throughout the following decades, the Harts frequently returned to Zaire. They continued their research in the Ituri Forest, where they tracked the movements of Okapi in the region via radio collars and helped build a local training and research center. During this time the Harts’ third daughter, Eleanor, was born in Epulu. In 1992, the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, located near the Epulu capture station, was established with support from the Harts. During the First and Second Congo Wars, Terese worked with an international conservation NGO in the nation’s capital Kinshasa, while John continued research fieldwork.

In 2006, the Harts joined the Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation to work on the TL2 Project, which refers to the Tshuapa, Lomami and Lualaba rivers in the Congo. The following year, Terese as the Project Director, John as the Scientific Director and their team surveyed more than 15,000 square miles in the central forested region surrounding these rivers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whose name had been changed from Zaire in 1997.

“The Lomami River area was a complete unknown,” Terese said. “Nobody had ever done any inventory or exploration there... the idea was to go up the Lomami River and do circuits on both sides to see what was there in terms of animal and human activity.”

During their three-year survey, the Lukuru team confirmed the presence of Okapis in the forested area, found Bonobos in locations thought to be uninhabited by the apes and documented the Lesula monkey, a species of primate that was previously unknown to the science community though familiar to local residents. The team also came to understand how extensive the bush meat trade was in the region and how, when paired with unregulated hunting, it drastically impacted local wildlife.

“In the TL2 landscape, only about a third of the region still has important concentrations of the large mammals targeted by hunters,” the Harts wrote in a 2011 report. “The pattern we found in the TL2 region mirrors results of surveys conducted elsewhere in the Congo over the last 20 years.”

Hunting of Bonobos, Forest Elephants and Okapis used to be

minimal; in some areas the killing of them was forbidden, and the capture success rate was low with hunting tools such as nets. With the country’s recent wars, two prominent forces were introduced to the region that raised the vulnerability of these animals to poaching: outsiders with little concern for local taboos and accessible military-grade weapons. The Harts’ report acknowledged that the Congo’s conflicts and poverty influenced wildlife decline, but warned that to assume poaching was unavoidable oversimplified the situation and “prevents us from recognizing opportunities for action to stop losses that would otherwise seem to be inevitable.”

To combat this continued onslaught, the Lukuru team developed a conservation model that included monitoring animal populations and hunting pressures, engaging in community outreach and training local people to safeguard the threatened areas. In 2008, the Congolese Nature Institute (ICCN) agreed with the Lukuru team that a formally designated protected area was needed to guard against mounting pressures of poaching and unregulated over-hunting in the TL2 area. The next step was to approach local communities about the creation of a national park. Terese described meeting with the chief of the Bangengeli tribe, a woman known as Mama Chieftaine:

“[The chief] basically said to us, ‘All the meetings and outreach you are doing are very good and people understand, but you will not have a national park this way. To have a national park, it has to be the people themselves who talk, and the people can only talk when they consult the ancestors.’ That seemed to us like a dead end, but she said, ‘No, you just need to have a *tambiko* ceremony so that the elders and the chiefs can confer with the ancestors.’”

A *tambiko* ceremony brings together the traditional authorities of the tribe, including those from the past; ancestors are consulted through rituals so that they too are involved in the decision making process. In numerous villages, the chiefs explained the need to protect wildlife from overhunting and poaching, and the tribal representatives invoked the ancestors through a series of ceremonial practices. There were also discussions among the provincial authorities, village chiefs, indigenous leaders, ICCN agents and Lukuru team members regarding the park borders, forest usage and status of protected areas.

“The birth of a park in the minds of the people and the changing traditions of a place are not a single series of signatures,” Terese explained. “It is many village meetings; it is discussion, negotiation, scratches in the bark of trees, song and spit in the sand.”

During five separate *tambikos*, the local leaders – and through them, the ancestors – agreed to support the creation of Lomami National Park.

The park proposal then had to be approved by the provincial governments, the national environmental minister, President Joseph Kabila and finally signed into existence by Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo. The nearly 2.2 million-acre Lomami National Park was officially declared July 7, 2016, by the Ministers’ Council of the DRC.

It was the first national park in the Congo, and one of the few in Africa, to be established with major support from local communities.

In addition to the dedicated efforts of the Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation, local communities and the Congolese government, the national park was made possible through collaboration with Rainforest Trust.

“The declaration of Lomami National Park is coming at a crucial time as threats to its spectacular rainforests are rapidly accelerating,” said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman.

The new Lomami National Park in the Congo Basin – which is nearly equal in size to Yellowstone National Park – now provides much-needed

protection for wildlife and brings a measure of stability to the Lomami region. Trained and well-equipped teams of park guards patrol the new protected area, and the Lukuru team also monitors the park through camera traps and wildlife surveillance. The involvement of local communities, such as those who participated in the *tambikos*, is crucial in safeguarding the park’s buffer zones.

“This will be the first protected area in the DRC that was set up in a participatory manner and involved all levels of the community and administration, from village to province to national entity,” said Terese. “It sets a new standard. It also sets a basis for moving toward an even larger protected area.”

Bolstered by the success of Lomami’s protected status, Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation and partner Rainforest Trust are currently working to create the Balanga Forest Reserve beside Lomami National Park. As was done through the new park’s establishment process, the creation of the Balanga Forest Reserve will include the voices of local communities. Reserve stipulations will clarify that the indigenous groups living in the protected area will have land tenure rights, with controls on hunting and immigration as well as a management system that addresses the needs of the various ethnic groups.

With strengthened enforcement and anti-poaching patrols in the region, the proposed Balanga Forest Reserve will provide additional safety for wildlife adjacent to Lomami National Park. This addition will expand

protection to encompass almost 3.4 million acres of central Africa’s rainforest – an area nearly the size of Connecticut – and will form one of the largest refuges for endangered wildlife such as Okapis, Forest Elephants and threatened primates in the Congo Basin.

Elevated signs delineating the borders of the new national park can be seen across the vast expanse of wild grass, spilling out from the forest edge. Drawing closer, gazes are raised skyward to read the lettered marker: PNL (Parc National de la Lomami). This is a testament to collaborations transpiring from leafy villages to the president’s desk, and a reminder of what can be accomplished when tradition, authority and determination unite to conserve nature in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



A village meeting is held to discuss the proposed Lomami National Park.

Monitoring Wildlife: Eyes on the Ground and in the Sky



Camera traps stationed in the field highlight the astonishing wealth of biodiversity found within the world’s rainforests.

Visual technology advances in the conservation field allow researchers to gather information about rare and enigmatic species that were previously inaccessible. These images provide conservationists with invaluable data on the state of these species and the habitats on which they depend for their survival.

As a video feed streams images of undisturbed foliage, a large shape ambles into the viewing frame. At first it is difficult to make out what creature it could be, until suddenly it becomes clear: a rare and Critically Endangered Sumatran Rhinoceros turns its head and stares directly into the camera, locking eyes with the viewer.

Footage from remotely activated camera traps provides opportunities like this to be “up close and personal” with elusive and endangered species, offering a powerful conservation tool that enables the observation of wildlife without the animals being aware of the observer. With less than 100 Sumatran Rhinos surviving in the wild, they are among the most endangered large mammals and are notoriously shy. Being able to witness one in its natural habitat is a rare privilege for both amateur wildlife enthusiasts and researchers. In addition to giving viewers the chance to watch these animals from the comfort of their own computers, camera traps provide critical insight to conservationists who might have access to the field but not directly to the species they are trying to protect.

This technology is aiding in the development of successful conservation strategies that rely on a continued understanding of the range, behavior and habitat requirements of wildlife needing protection. Camera trap photography can aid conservationists in confirming the presence of rare species and is a tool to track

populations of endangered animals, draw distribution maps, monitor animal behavior and estimate wildlife populations. The advantages of camera traps are numerous: their setup ease makes them less time consuming than traditional catch-and-release methods used to study animals; they are minimally intrusive, causing no impacts to wildlife; and the images they produce can be reviewed by teams of scientists, reducing the chance of individual subjective errors.



A camera trap in the proposed Imawbum National Park in Myanmar captures an image of a Vulnerable Takin.



Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman operates a drone to count Borneo Pygmy Elephants along the shore of a protected area that Rainforest Trust supports in Borneo.

As part of a species survey, Rainforest Trust’s Cambodian partner, Wildlife Alliance, is using camera traps to collect photos of a variety of animals in the Southern Cardamom National Park, which was newly established this spring through the collaborative efforts of both organizations. Images of marbled cats wandering through the forest undergrowth and clouded leopards traveling in pairs give a glimpse into the lives of these elusive animals, sometimes providing unexpected results. For example, sightings of these rare cat duos may indicate the presence of an abundant prey base since they are usually solitary creatures, according to Wildlife Alliance’s CEO Suwanna Gauntlett.

Another advance in conservation imaging technology is the usage of drones to monitor wildlife movements and habitat change. Rainforest Trust often uses drones equipped with high definition cameras to provide an aerial view of conservation project sites. During a recent site visit in Borneo, Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman maneuvered a drone to inspect forest regeneration inside a newly protected area to ensure that oil palm plantations were not invading the protected forest. He also used the drone to count the number of Borneo Pygmy Elephants that inhabit one of the properties that Rainforest Trust helped to protect.

While aerial photography is useful to monitor large-scale movements of wildlife, small, non-intrusive cameras that are temporarily attached to animals can provide more localized insight. Rainforest Trust’s partner Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP) in Papua New Guinea recently used Crittercams (developed by National Geographic) to learn more about the Matschie’s Tree-kangaroo. In this case, gently fastening a miniature camera to the creature using a collar is preferable to a ground camera trap, as tree-kangaroos spend the majority of their time high in the tree canopy. The visual recording process involves local communities as former hunters use their tracking skills to help TKCP researchers capture, equip and release the elusive tree-kangaroos. The attached camera then records short video segments throughout the day and reveals information, such as feeding behaviors, that is otherwise difficult to observe. These images are invaluable for making decisions regarding the ecological composition and size of new protected areas based on the needs of the species.

“Extremely secretive species can now be tracked via camera traps, and drones provide instant information on the true situation on the ground,” said Dr. Bert Harris, Rainforest Trust’s Director of Biodiversity Conservation. “Advances in photographic technology are enabling conservationists to accomplish what was once impossible.”



Drone footage updates Rainforest Trust and local partners on the status of the environment and wildlife in protected areas around the world.

“Extremely secretive species can now be tracked via camera traps, and drones provide instant information on the true situation on the ground. Advances in photographic technology are enabling conservationists to accomplish what was once impossible.”



A Crittercam collar is temporarily attached to a tree-kangaroo in Papua New Guinea so that its behavior can be studied by conservationists.

TOP: CIFOR; BOTTOM: FLORA & FAUNA INTERNATIONAL;

CENTER: DJI TECHNOLOGIES; BOTTOM: LISA DABEK;



Rainforest Trust Travel Opportunities

Rainforest Trust is excited to announce three opportunities in 2017 for supporters to travel to project sites in Colombia, Borneo, South Africa and Madagascar with conservationists to experience the places they have helped to protect.

Rainforest Trust is proud to have been actively involved in direct conservation action in **Colombia** for two decades and invites you to join us in this magnificent country from March 25-April 1. We will begin our adventure at the walled city of Cartagena, which is one of the oldest cities in the Americas. We will then spend a few days experiencing the spectacular El Dorado Reserve that Rainforest Trust helped establish. This vital reserve is part of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountain range, which boasts the highest concentration of endemic birds in the world and protects a breeding stronghold of the Santa Marta Parakeet along with a variety of rare amphibians and plants. We will leisurely explore these critical habitats and unique species, taking in breathtaking views and residing at the comfortable Sierra Nevada Eco-Lodge.

Then in early summer from June 28-July 5, Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman and Director of Biodiversity Conservation Dr. Bert Harris will lead a tour to two premier wildlife viewing locations in the Southeast Asian island of **Borneo**: Danum Valley and the Kinbatangan River. On this trip we will search for wild Bornean

Orangutans, Proboscis Monkeys, Bornean Pygmy Elephants and Clouded Leopards, as well as a variety of birds such as Helmeted Hornbills, Bornean Ground-cuckoos and Barred Eagle-owls. We will visit reserves established with the support of Rainforest Trust, boat along the Kinbatangan River, explore the forest canopy through a treetop “canopy walkway” and take a guided trek to beautiful waterfalls.

Finally, in mid-summer, we will see first-hand the flora and fauna of **South Africa and Madagascar** from July 24-August 5. Starting in South Africa, we will visit the Geometric Tortoise Preserve that Rainforest Trust helped create and will take the Table Mountain Cable Way to experience the spectacular views of Cape Town. We will also spend time at the Sanbona Wildlife Reserve and will have the incredible chance to go on a shark cage diving expedition. In Madagascar, we will visit multiple national parks and the proposed Mangabe protected area that Rainforest Trust is helping establish. Within these forests live unique species such as the world’s largest lemur called the Indri, nocturnal Aye-ayes, cat-like Fossas, leaf-tailed geckos and numerous chameleons, frogs and bats.

Please contact Rainforest Trust today for more information or to register for one of these expeditions.

DONATIONS DOUBLED

ASIA

Vital Protection for Cave-dwelling Species on the Edge of Extinction

SIZE: 2,196 acres PROJECT COST: \$252,033 PRICE PER ACRE: \$132.89

KEY SPECIES: Blind Millipede (*Eostemmiulus caecus*) (CR), Silvered Langur (EN), Hon Chong Ground Beetle (*Eustra honchongensis*) (EN), Bedos' and Deharveng's Harvestman (*Gnomulus bedoharvengorum*) (EN), Vietnam Darkling Beetle (*Harvengia vietnamita*) (EN), Deharveng's Scorpion (*Isometrus deharvengi*) (EN), Le Cong Man's Beetle (*Microblattellus lecongmani*) (VU), Boutin's Millipede (*Plusioglyphiulus boutini*) (VU)

CR Critically Endangered
EN Endangered
VU Vulnerable

Rainforest Trust is excited to announce a new project in Cambodia and Vietnam that will safeguard invertebrate species known more for their creepy appearances than their endangered status.

The limestone karst hills of Southeast Asia are biodiversity “arks” containing an extremely high number of species found nowhere else in the world. This landscape supports numerous ‘creepy-crawly’ species that are highly range restricted; some are even limited to just one or two hills. This extraordinary concentration of endemic wildlife is a result of the adaptation of species to the harsh conditions of limestone and the caves that dot the landscape. Despite their incredibly rare biodiversity, the karst landscapes of Vietnam and Cambodia are significantly understudied, unprotected and largely unexplored.

Biodiversity experts have identified the unique limestone karst hills in southern Vietnam as being home to one of the highest concentrations of threatened endemic species, higher than any other habitat of comparable size on Earth. In particular, the karst hills in the region are of immense global conservation value for invertebrates, such as endemic scorpions and millipedes. Multiple species new to science have been discovered here, including five species of Endangered and Critically Endangered snails, an Endangered springtail and an Endangered woodlouse. Experts believe that many hundreds of species that are unknown to science are still likely to be found here.

Nearby in Cambodia, a recent rapid survey of the Kampot Karst Hills found over 100 species of plants in just four days and has already revealed at least three plant species new to science. Two recent studies identified a new species of sand fly and other cave-dwelling invertebrates. While

more extensive surveys will need to be conducted to determine how many globally threatened species are present, there is good reason to believe the number will be comparable to that found in the neighboring karst systems of southern Vietnam.

Because the region’s karst hills are under severe threat from quarrying and habitat degradation, the establishment of protected areas is vital to save these endemic species from extinction. For this reason, Rainforest Trust is working with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-Vietnam and IUCN-Cambodia to support the creation and initial management of two new protected areas. The proposed 1,422-acre Kien Luong Karst Hills Nature Reserve in Vietnam and 774-acre Kampot Karst Hills Conservation Area in Cambodia will ensure that these irreplaceable biodiverse karst hills can

be protected from the imminent threat of mining.

“The planet isn’t just populated with furry animals – there are other countless incredible species that are too often overlooked,” said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. Paul Salaman. “Rainforest Trust is proud to stand for all life on Earth, especially by working to save ecosystems for invertebrates.”

To ensure the success of this urgent project, Rainforest Trust must raise a remaining \$126,016. Through a generous matching gift offer, every donation to help safeguard the karst hills of Southeast Asia will be doubled.

Supporter Spotlight: Brittany Goldberg

An environmentalist at heart and keenly aware of her relationship with the world around her, Rainforest Trust supporter Dr. Brittany Goldberg drives a hybrid vehicle and has been a vegetarian since the age of 13. Though she has never traveled to the rainforest, she has donated to protect over 125 acres of rainforests worldwide – all the way from Brazil to Sumatra.

In September, Brittany celebrated her one-year anniversary as a Rainforest Trust supporter and is now thrilled to be participating in the organization’s new monthly giving program called Roots – particularly because the automatic monthly donations are so simple and fit well into her busy lifestyle.

Like many supporters, Brittany has a full schedule, which for her includes working as a medical officer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by day while picking up occasional rotations at the hospital in her spare time. Fortunately, the new Roots program helps her to give back without the time commitment some of her other activities require.



As a network of committed supporters, Roots members donate monthly to ensure Rainforest Trust’s urgent conservation work. In return, they receive quarterly rewards via email of behind-the-scenes photos, videos, stories and project updates about the places they are helping to protect.

After thoroughly researching similar nonprofit organizations, Brittany chose to support Rainforest Trust above the rest because of its high ranking on Guide Star that indicates a great level of transparency, financial efficiency and program effectiveness.

“I’m most interested in a return on investment and having a high impact,” Brittany said. “I decided it was time for me to give back, and I researched some charities with missions that interested me.”

With the click of a button, Brittany was able to register her monthly Roots donation, committing to support Rainforest Trust’s conservation efforts and project sites across the planet. Now she can sit back and help celebrate the victories as national parks and reserves are established worldwide.

RIGHT: DAVID COOK; BOTTOM: BRITTANY GOLDBERG;

TOP: MARK LUKIC;

Urgent Protection

Support the conservation work of Rainforest Trust and its partners around the world.

First Protection for the Rediscovered Blue-eyed Ground-dove in Brazil

The Critically Endangered Blue-eyed Ground-dove is one of the rarest birds in the world. It disappeared for 75 years and was thought to be possibly extinct until a population was rediscovered in 2015, in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. This rediscovery is one of the most amazing ornithological finds in recent memory. Unfortunately, this dove does not occur in any protected areas; the only known population is found on private land.

To ensure the long-term conservation of the Blue-eyed Ground-dove and its unique rocky cerrado habitat, Rainforest Trust is helping purchase land to create a 1,606-acre reserve, safeguarding the only known stronghold of this incredibly endangered bird.

At \$260.01 per acre and with all gifts matched 1:1, Rainforest Trust seeks \$208,791 to complete project funding.



Saving a Critical Hotspot for Amphibians in Cameroon

An ancient volcano called Mount Manengouba is shrouded in rainforest within the Cameroon highlands and harbors an incredible 100 species of amphibians, providing habitat for more than half of the most threatened frogs and toads in Cameroon. Despite being a global priority, this volcano is unprotected and at grave risk from deforestation that is encroaching from all sides.

Rainforest Trust is working with local partners in Cameroon to designate 5,542 acres of Mount Manengouba as an Ecological Reserve to prevent further habitat degradation and protect the mountain's highly threatened species.

At \$99.24 per acre and with all gifts matched 1:1, Rainforest Trust seeks \$274,940 to complete project funding.



Paradise for Flying Foxes at Risk in Solomon Islands

Two small, remote islands – Teanu and Tinakula – are incredibly important havens for endemic wildlife within Solomon Islands. Teanu is almost entirely covered in undisturbed primary forest, which provides vital habitat for the Critically Endangered Vanikoro Flying Fox. Tinakula is a refuge for threatened species like the Endangered Temotu Flying Fox and Santa Cruz Ground-Dove, whose population has decreased due to habitat loss and hunting.

To preserve these indispensable habitats and safeguard their unique biodiversity, Rainforest Trust is working with a local partner to permanently protect the two islands through the creation of Teanu Island Biodiversity Reserve and Tinakula Island Biodiversity Reserve.

At \$14.58 per acre and with all gifts matched 1:1, Rainforest Trust seeks \$53,956 to complete project funding.



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