

# RAINFOREST

TRUST®

Fall 2016

**SAVES Challenge:**  
Major New Initiative  
Launched to Create  
Protected Areas

**LOMAMI NATIONAL  
PARK ESTABLISHED**

Protecting Congo Forest for Threatened Primates

**KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS  
SECURED IN CAMBODIA**

Safeguarding Habitat for Asian Elephants



# Assembly for Amphibian Aid

During May 12-13, conservation organizations gathered at Rainforest Trust's headquarters in Warrenton, Virginia, as part of the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) Global Council meeting to discuss national, regional and international strategies to halt the global decline in amphibian populations.

The creation of ASA was called by the international science and conservation community shortly after a 2004 global evaluation found amphibians to be the most threatened group of vertebrates assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Although amphibians face many challenges around the world, including diseases, pollution and trade, habitat loss was identified as the dominant reason for species decline.

"Despite being at the forefront of what some are calling the sixth mass extinction, amphibians do not get the conservation attention they deserve," said James Lewis, the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Officer at Rainforest Trust. "The work of Rainforest Trust is changing that— it is helping to raise the profile of amphibians and also helping to lead many of the critical strategies that are required to save so many amphibian species from extinction."

By collaborating with the ASA, Rainforest Trust is part of a global movement addressing the complexities of species decline and has already helped create a number of protected areas in key regions to help safeguard Endangered and Critically Endangered amphibians.



**RAINFOREST TRUST**

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

This summer I traveled to the rainforest island of Borneo with our Director of Biodiversity Conservation Dr. Bert Harris and a group of passionate Rainforest Trust supporters. While visiting two of our project sites in the island's northern Sabah region, we observed some of the extraordinary wildlife that call this island home.

One particular highlight was glimpsing a mother pangolin with her baby hugging a branch just ten feet away. These creatures are known to be shy and their numbers are drastically decreasing due to a lack of protection and the illegal wildlife trade, making it a rare privilege to spot these two in the wild. During a visit to land we helped our partner HUTAN purchase along the Kinabatangan River, we saw an aged male orangutan devouring figs, then spotted a female and infant orangutan feeding higher in the same tree.

Our most stunning experience occurred at the location of our very first land purchase on the Kinabatangan River. As we reviewed the property, we spotted a herd of at least 80 Borneo Pygmy Elephants that had emerged from the rainforest onto the banks of the river to cool down from the mid-afternoon heat. That afternoon, we observed the herd from the boat (fortunately they paid no attention to us). At one point, we witnessed a bull elephant accidentally kick another elephant – the other loudly trumpeted in surprise, and in what looked like an attempt to comfort it, the clumsy "culprit" gently brushed its trunk against the startled elephant's shoulder. We were truly fascinated with their nurturing and compassionate interactions, and thanks to our supporters, their future is more assured through a critical land purchase.

We then visited our largest conservation victory on Borneo. This land was slated to become an oil palm plantation, but instead the vast 168,032-acre Maliau rainforest basin – an expanse three times the size of Washington DC – is now protected. This spectacular area is one of the most crucial stretches of lowland rainforest remaining on the island and importantly connects to the world-renowned Danum Valley Conservation Area.

While we were able to view some brilliant wildlife at the protected areas we helped to create, we recognize that there is still much work to be done. We were encouraged to learn that the government of Sabah has committed to setting aside a percentage of state land for the creation of new protected areas, despite the pressures of oil palm plantations. Right now, the government is requesting Rainforest Trust's collaboration to determine the highest priority areas across the region that remain at risk and need protection.

These types of expeditions provide an excellent opportunity to show our supporters the realities of the areas that we help safeguard around the world and to thank them for making Rainforest Trust's mission of conservation possible. If you are interested in joining one of these trips, I invite you to reach out to us. We look forward to welcoming you to the places you help us protect.

Until our next adventure,

Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO



**PANGOLINS ARE BEING PUSHED TO THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION** because of habitat destruction and the illegal wildlife trade.



**THE FUTURE OF CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BORNEAN ORANGUTANS** depends on protected areas, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

## 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.

**Rainforest Trust Tax ID: 13-3500609**



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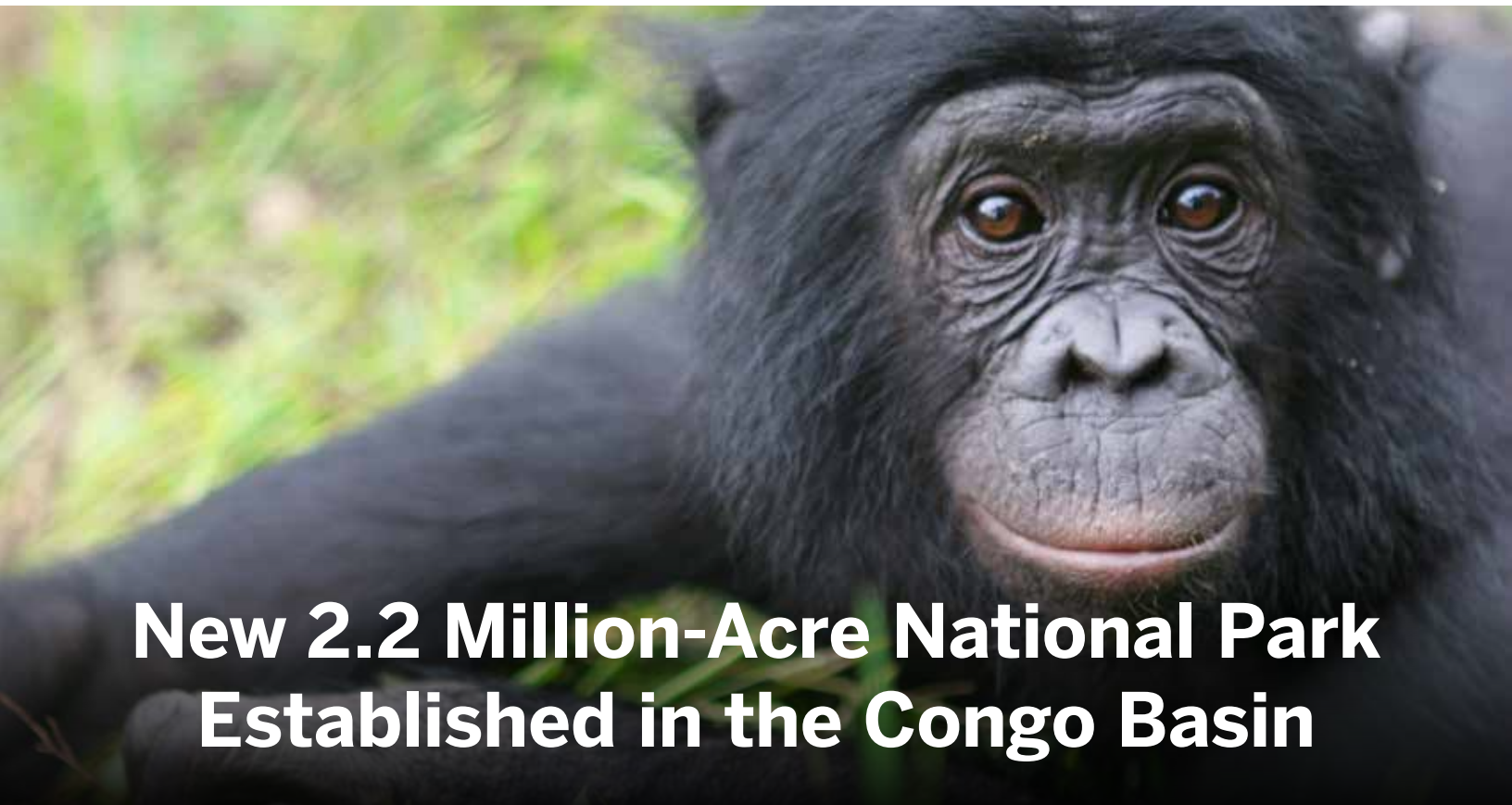


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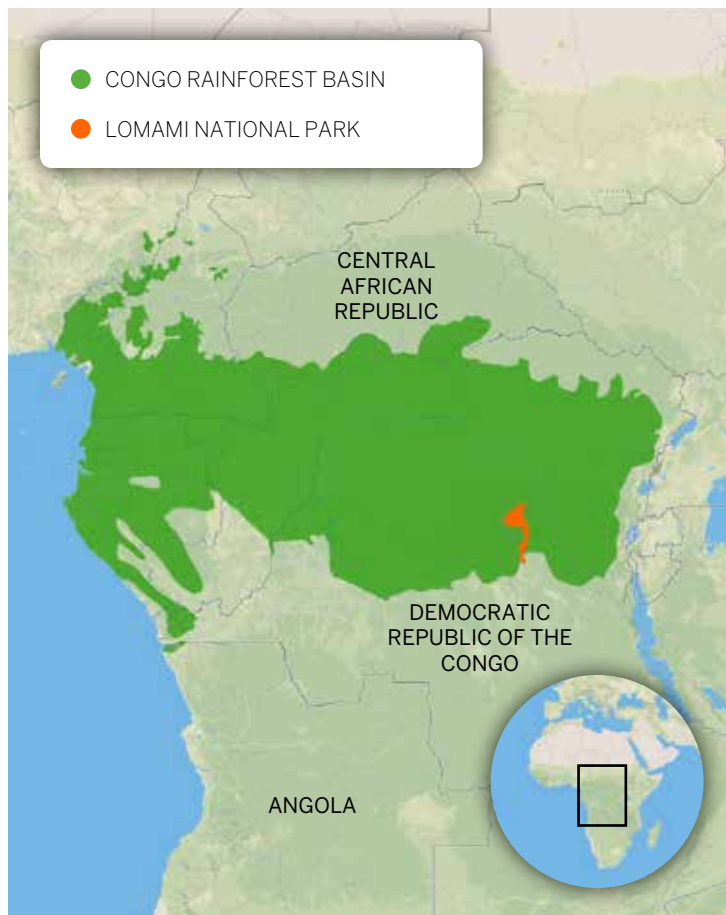






# New 2.2 Million-Acre National Park Established in the Congo Basin

**The declaration of Lomami National Park is heralded as a major breakthrough in securing urgently needed rainforest protection for central African wildlife, such as Endangered Bonobos and Okapis.**



The nearly 2.2 million-acre Lomami National Park was officially declared July 7 by the Ministers' Council of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Rainforest Trust supported local partner Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation (LWRF) in working with local communities and governmental institutions to make this national park a reality.

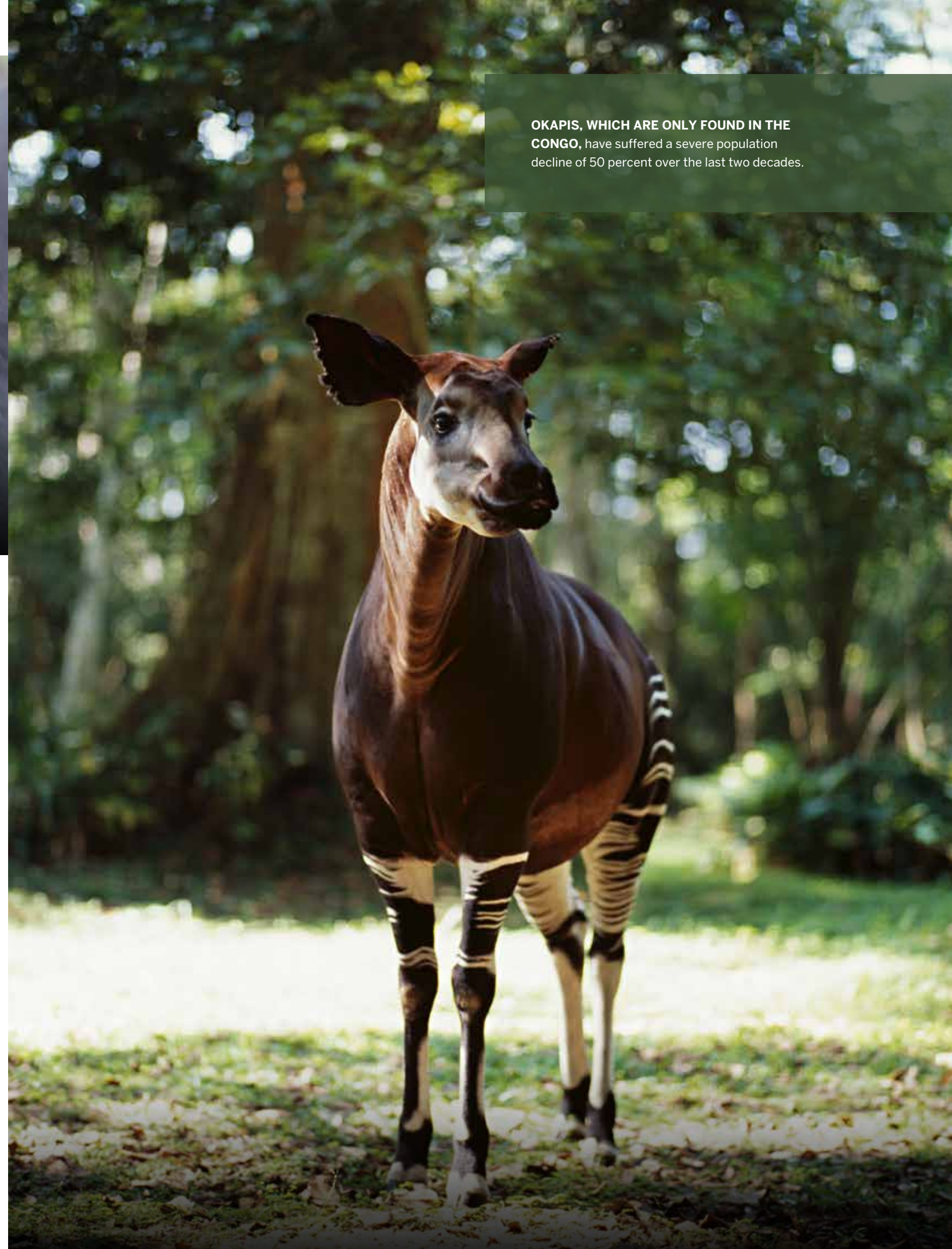
While many parts of the Congo have suffered from decades of disastrous civil war, Lomami Basin has been spared much of this destruction due to its remoteness, leaving much of its habitat intact. However, in recent years the area has been ravaged by criminal gangs of ivory poachers terrorizing both wildlife and local people.

The declaration of Lomami National Park not only provides fundamental protection for wildlife, but also brings much-needed security and stability to the region. At the request of indigenous communities and with the backing of the Congolese Army, trained and well-equipped teams of park guards will be deployed around the new park to stop illegal poaching and crime.

"In a country where most funders have turned their backs because of decades of conflict, Rainforest Trust and our local partner have persevered. Countries like the DRC are the very ones that need our support the most," said Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO of Rainforest Trust. "The declaration of Lomami National Park is coming at a crucial time as threats to its spectacular rainforests are rapidly accelerating."

More than five times the size of Texas, the Congo Basin encompasses lowland tropical forests, hills, swamps and natural savannas that shelter an abundance of rare and endangered species found only in the DRC. Some of its primate species, such as the recently discovered Lesula and the Lomami Red Colobus, occur in no other protected

LEFT PAGE: TERESE HART.



**OKAPIS, WHICH ARE ONLY FOUND IN THE CONGO,** have suffered a severe population decline of 50 percent over the last two decades.





**THE NEW LOMAMI NATIONAL PARK IS A HAVEN** for Forest Elephants that are otherwise threatened by poaching.

area globally. Other important primates found in the area include Bonobos, Dryas Monkeys, Mona Monkeys, Blue Monkeys and Red-tailed Monkeys.

The park is home to Okapis and Congo Peafowls as well as one of the DRC's last remaining elephant populations, with at least 500 Forest Elephants found in the area. These elephants are threatened by poaching due to the value of their tusks, and nearly two-thirds of their habitat has been lost within the last thirty years. The new Lomami National Park represents a vitally important refuge for elephants covering almost 2.2 million acres — nearly equal in size to Yellowstone National Park.

Despite being the second-largest rainforest in the world, the Congo Basin ranks as the most under-protected rainforest wilderness left on Earth. After identifying mounting threats to the region's wildlife — from poaching to deforestation for timber and agricultural expansion — Rainforest Trust launched a massive campaign to support LWRF in the critically needed establishment of the new national park. This is the first national park in the DRC, and one of the few in Africa, to be established with major support from local communities.

"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 Dr. Terese Hart, who has worked in the Congo's rainforest for more than three decades and is the national administrator of LWRF. "It sets a new standard. It also sets a



**THE CONGO PEAFOWL** found within Lomami National Park is the national bird of the DRC.

basis for moving toward an even larger protected area."

Support and involvement of local communities will be crucial to managing buffer areas around the new park. Rainforest Trust is committed to establishing a well-trained park guard system with community participation to secure the area for decades ahead.

"Thanks to the bottom-up approach in the establishment of this park, the local community feels a real stake in the protection of this area and its wildlife," said Salaman. "This strategy is absolutely fundamental for conservation to succeed. It is the only way that major protected areas will stand the test of time, allowing local communities to participate."

While the declaration of Lomami National Park represents a major step forward for the conservation of central Africa's rainforest, the work of Rainforest Trust and its partner continues to expand. Efforts are currently underway to create Balanga Forest Reserve beside Lomami National Park, which will ultimately extend protection across an area almost as large as the state of Connecticut. Like the Lomami National Park establishment process, the Balanga Forest Reserve will be created with major involvement of local communities. The proposed reserve will provide additional critical protection for wildlife adjacent to Lomami National Park, while strengthening enforcement and anti-poaching patrols in the region. Together, the two protected areas will encompass nearly 3.4 million acres, forming one of the largest and most important refuges for wildlife in the Congo.

LEFT PAGE: TOP: CAROLYN GRANYCOME; BOTTOM: HANS DEBISSCHOP; RIGHT PAGE: TOP: DAVID SCHEFFELD; BOTTOM: KENNY ROSS.



## Nature Reserve Secures Refuge for Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorilla

**The Itombwe Nature Reserve represents a major step forward for the conservation of Grauer's Gorillas by permanently protecting more than 1 million acres of Central African rainforest habitat.**

Thanks to Rainforest Trust's local partner, donors and other supporters, Itombwe Nature Reserve now safeguards approximately 1,416,320 acres of one of Africa's most biodiverse regions. On June 23, the Provincial Governor of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) approved the boundaries of Itombwe Nature Reserve, officially establishing the protected area and securing vital habitat for dozens of threatened wildlife species, including the Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorilla.

The recent governmental approval was a critical final step because the reserve boundaries needed legal recognition before effective on-the-ground protection could take place.

The urgent need for securing Itombwe Nature Reserve was promoted by the results of a report highlighting the shocking population collapse of the Grauer's Gorilla — an endangered subspecies of the Eastern Gorilla — during the last 20 years of civil unrest in the DRC. Results of the new study point to a 77 percent decrease in the gorilla population, a reduction from an estimated 17,000 individuals in 1995 to just 3,800 individuals today.

One of the last strongholds of the Grauer's Gorilla is the Itombwe massif. Its montane forests cover more than 1.6 million acres, making it the largest intact forest in the region.

Due to its remote location and stunning range of habitats, Itombwe is a haven for Grauer's Gorillas, African Elephants and many other threatened Central African species. Itombwe also has been identified as an irreplaceable site for amphibian conservation and has the highest diversity of birds of any site in Africa, hosting an incredible 563 species.

Given the global importance of Itombwe and the urgent need to implement lasting protection for the area, Rainforest Trust supported its local partner in a bottom-up approach to build community support and local capacity while establishing clear boundaries for Itombwe Nature Reserve.

"It is absolutely critical to establish clearly demarcated and legally enforceable protected areas to save the Grauer's Gorilla from extinction," said Rainforest Trust CEO, Dr. Paul Salaman. "And thanks to our supporters and our local partner, we are proud to have assisted the protection of the Itombwe massif, and not a moment too soon."

Rainforest Trust supported the Albertine Rift Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in a joint collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature- Democratic Republic of Congo (WWF-DRC) and AfriCapacity in the protection of the Itombwe Nature Reserve.



**AFRICAN ELEPHANTS ARE KNOWN TO INFLUENCE THE ENVIRONMENT** by shaping water sources and forest cover.



# Major Initiative to Help Create Protected Areas Launched at International Conservation Conference

*Rainforest Trust recently announced a major initiative to establish new protected areas across the tropics for Endangered and Critically Endangered species.*

In September, Rainforest Trust launched the SAVES Challenge (Safeguarding Areas Vital to Endangered Species) at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Hawaii. Through this ambitious initiative, Rainforest Trust has committed to raise \$50 million as a challenge match that will direct a total of \$100 million to create new protected areas throughout the tropics for the planet's most endangered species.

This announcement coincided with President Barack Obama's recent expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a refuge for more than 7,000 marine species that is now the largest protected area on the planet. President Obama spoke about this expansion and the impacts of conservation the day before the opening of the IUCN's WCC.

Every four years, the IUCN hosts the world's largest conservation

event where scientists, government officials, business leaders, indigenous groups and non-governmental entities gather to discuss pressing issues affecting conservation and sustainable development. The WCC has two sections: the Forum, which is an opportunity for participants to share experiences, collaborate and showcase efforts to address the complex challenges facing biodiversity; and the Members' Assembly, where IUCN members collectively decide on the direction of the organization and lay the foundation for significant global conservation action.

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"Rainforest Trust is built on the belief that collaboration is the key to conservation success," said Dr. Paul Salaman, Rainforest Trust CEO. "The IUCN WCC provides an important opportunity for groups, no matter how big or small, to have a say on the international conservation stage."

The SAVES Challenge was strategically launched during the IUCN WCC to draw attention to the urgent need to create new protected areas for wildlife, as Rainforest

Trust seeks to forge new alliances with in-country organizations that secure lands for threatened species.

At the congress, Salaman met with distinguished conservationist and

**"The challenge is to respond to the urgency of saving the last great wildlife habitats on Earth. We are determined to ensure that these areas are protected through the SAVES Challenge."**

**RAINFOREST TRUST ASIA CONSERVATION OFFICER** Rick Passaro discusses conservation initiatives with potential partners at the WCC.



**RAINFOREST TRUST'S CONSERVATION TEAM** welcomes potential partners and supporters to learn more about the SAVES Challenge at the WCC.

two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Dr. E.O. Wilson, who was inspired to learn about the SAVES Challenge that directly advances his vision of protecting at least half the planet.

"Rainforest Trust has my highest respect and in my opinion deserves support," Wilson previously noted in an endorsement of the nonprofit. "The [organization] is a model of what international conservation efforts should be."

Rainforest Trust partners with in-country organizations to permanently safeguard areas vital to endangered species by creating protected areas in regions most at risk of habitat destruction. These areas are established and secured through direct land purchase and acquisition, the designation of national parks and other government protected areas, the conversion of logging concessions, or the creation of community conservation areas whose borders are managed and maintained by teams of well-trained local forest guards.

So far this year alone, Rainforest Trust has helped to safeguard nearly 5 million acres of critical wildlife habitat across Latin America, Asia and Africa. One of Rainforest Trust's greatest conservation victories in 2016 was the creation of the nearly 2.2 million-acre Lomami National Park in the Congo Basin. Through collaboration with a local Congolese partner, the new protected area – almost equal in size to Yellowstone National Park – secures vital habitat for a host of threatened species, including Bonobos, Okapis and Forest Elephants.

Since 1988, Rainforest Trust and its many in-country conservation partners have strategically created over 100 new protected areas across 23 countries. Through the SAVES Challenge, Rainforest Trust seeks to reach its goal of protecting a total of 50 million acres of vital habitat by the year 2020.

"The challenge is to respond to the urgency of saving the last great wildlife habitats on Earth," said Salaman. "We are determined to ensure that these areas are protected through the SAVES Challenge, and we invite all conservationists and supporters to join us."



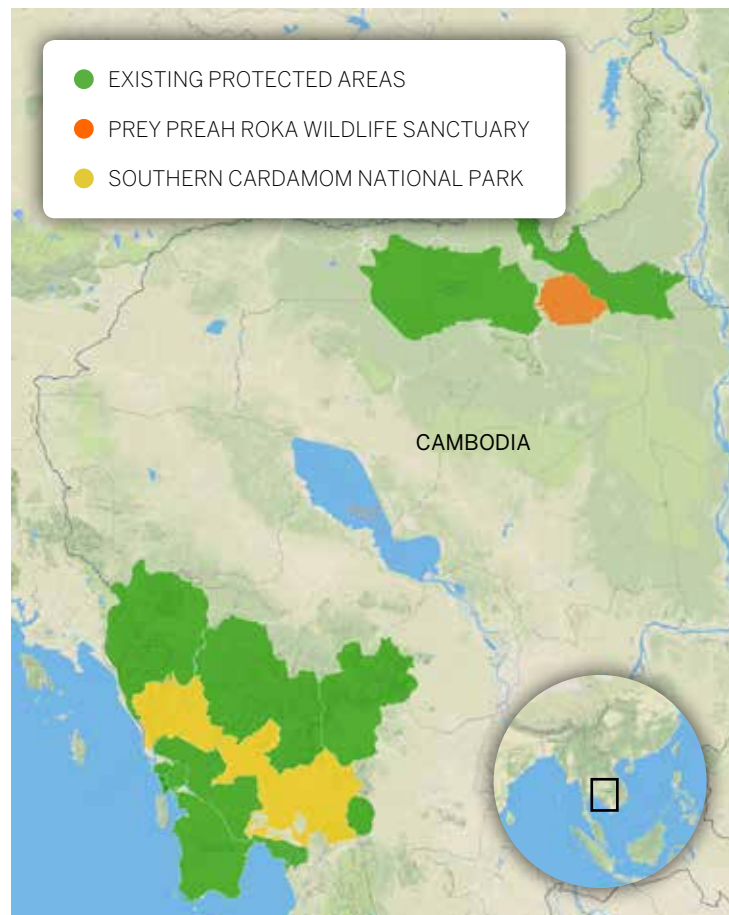
**RAINFOREST TRUST CEO** Dr. Paul Salaman explains the importance of creating protected areas to young conservationists.





# Critical Extension of Cambodia's Protected Area Network

**Cambodia boasts a diversity of habitats supporting some of Asia's most impressive and threatened megafauna. In recent years, the country has seen one of the world's highest rates of deforestation, and Rainforest Trust is helping to expand the country's protected area network to combat this environmental threat.**



Thanks to Rainforest Trust supporters and local partners, more than 1.2 million acres of essential wildlife habitat in Cambodia were secured this May through the creation of two new protected areas. As one of its largest conservation achievements, Rainforest Trust collaborated with partner Wildlife Alliance to work with Cambodia's government to formally establish the 1,014,100-acre Southern Cardamom National Park, safeguarding one of Southeast Asia's last great rainforests which is located in the heart of the Indo-Burmese Peninsula. Through work with another local partner, the 223,287-acre Prey Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary in Cambodia's Northern Plains was also declared.

The new Southern Cardamom National Park – which is larger than the state of Rhode Island – is the final critical centerpiece connecting six major national parks and wildlife sanctuaries to form a massive, contiguous area spanning nearly 4.5 million acres. For the estimated 250 Asian Elephants still found in Cambodia, the Cardamom Range provides essential habitat for their survival. The mountains contain one of the last unfragmented Asian Elephant corridors on the planet, and 80 percent of the elephants found within the 'Southwest Elephant Corridor' reside in the Cardamoms. The park also provides habitat for Critically Endangered Northern River Terrapins and Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodiles.

The park's creation comes after intense and prolonged pressure to open the Cardamom Mountains to logging and the development of industrial plantations. For over 14 years, Rainforest Trust's partner Wildlife Alliance has successfully defended the southern Cardamoms by focusing on their economic value to the nation through relentless advocacy. The mountain range supplies water to hydropower dams that are estimated to provide 20 percent of the country's electricity,

RIGHT PAGE: LEFT: TAMBAKO THE JAGUAR; CENTER: WILDLIFE ALLIANCE; RIGHT: WILDLIFE ALLIANCE.

**DUE TO HUNTING AND A LOSS OF HABITAT ACROSS THEIR ASIAN RANGE,** Fishing Cat populations have alarmingly declined by 30 percent over the last 15 years.



**PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED FOR ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION** include the security of their habitats and the connectivity of elephant corridors.

**THE GREATEST THREATS TO ENDANGERED INDOCHINESE SILVERED LANGURS** are hunting, habitat loss and the pet trade.



and it is the most prominent rain-catchment area in the nation.

Through a three-pronged conservation approach, Rainforest Trust's local partner battled to avoid deforestation and loss of species. First, ranger patrols were employed to stop forest clearing and wildlife poaching. Next, profitable alternative livelihoods were developed with local communities so they were less dependent on harvesting forest timber and its wildlife. Finally, through persistent advocacy, protection of the Cardamom forests was promoted as an economic priority for the nation.

This strategy has paid off. Since 2004, dozens of economic land concessions were prevented or canceled, 5,000 residents benefited from alternative income, and the Southern Cardamoms have been recognized as a popular tourism destination.

After this long-awaited national park declaration, the next step for the southern Cardamoms is to be nominated as a World Biosphere Reserve – a designation that the Royal Government of Cambodia, UNESCO and Wildlife Alliance have been working toward for the past two and a half years and hope to see accomplished in the near future.

"The declaration of Southern Cardamom National Park adds another exceptional piece to an enormous protected landscape puzzle that is vital to the people, wildlife and environment of Cambodia,"

**"The declaration of Southern Cardamom National Park adds another exceptional piece to an enormous protected landscape puzzle that is vital to the people, wildlife and environment of Cambodia."**

said Rick Passaro, Asia Conservation Officer for Rainforest Trust.

Hailed as a separate major success for the country, the recently established Prey Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Cambodia's Northern Plains. This area, known as the 'Serengeti of Southeast Asia,' holds the last intact representation of an ecosystem that once dominated most of Indochina.

The new sanctuary lies within a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot boasting nearly 30 species assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, including Endangered Fishing Cats and Endangered Indochinese Silvered Langurs.

Rainforest Trust's in-country partner Wildlife Conservation Society - Cambodia worked with local communities and Cambodia's government to formally establish this new sanctuary. Its protection comes after years of logging, hunting and agricultural expansion in the region that threatened to destroy the Northern Plain's unique plant and animal communities. Today, the Prey Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary now securely connects two previously established protected areas, providing an enormous wildlife corridor spanning 1,698,012 acres (an area larger than the Grand Canyon National Park).

"These historic events in Cambodia should be hailed as conservation victories for the entire Southeast Asian region," said Passaro.





JUL 15, 2016

## Future of Now Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutans Depends on Protected Areas

The IUCN recently escalated the status of Bornean Orangutans from “Endangered” to “Critically Endangered” on its Red List of Threatened Species. According to the assessment, the future of Bornean Orangutans depends on the long-term security of large, strictly-protected forests where illegal logging and hunting will be controlled. With more than 168,000 acres already secured, Rainforest Trust’s conservation efforts in Borneo will continue to protect essential habitat for the Critically Endangered species.



JUL 11, 2016

## Students Host Block Party Celebration for the Rainforest

Gabriella, Lilly, Mateo and Nina of Beach Elementary School near Oakland, California, have banded together for the past two years to raise money and awareness for rainforest protection. This past year, the group enlisted help from family, friends and neighbors by throwing a block-party style fundraiser. The students’ hard work paid off, as they raised enough donations to help save 3,811 acres of rainforest in the Sierra del Divisor mountain range of Peru.



JUN 29, 2016

## New Center in Ecuador Encourages Environmental Education

Rainforest Trust’s long-standing Ecuadorian partner, Fundación Jocotoco, completed construction of the Yanacocha Interpretation Center this summer. This new space provides an opportunity for community members and reserve visitors to learn about the organization’s conservation efforts and Yanacocha Reserve’s unique ecology. Rainforest Trust supported the creation of this environmental education center, which is strategically positioned near Ecuador’s capital, Quito.



JUN 7, 2016

## Rainforest Trust Expands into Australia

Rainforest Trust’s first international affiliate was recently established in Australia. Rainforest Trust-Australia is currently working on two significant projects: the expansion of both Daintree National Park and Barrine Park Nature Refuge. Various habitats make the Daintree one of the most complex rainforest ecosystems on Earth, and the growth of Barrine Park will provide a safe haven for many of Australia’s most iconic rainforest species, such as the Southern Cassowary.



JUN 1, 2016

## Newly Described Tortoise Receives Crucial Protection in Mexico

Earlier this year, scientists described a new species – Goode’s Thornscrub Tortoise (*Gopherus evgoodei*) – discovered in the Sinaloan Thornscrub Forests of Mexico. Rainforest Trust and the Turtle Conservancy acted promptly to help protect the surviving population stronghold of the Goode’s Thornscrub Tortoise by assisting in the purchase of 1,000 acres of thornscrub habitat near Alamos by Mexican partner Naturaleza y Cultura Sierra Madre.



MAY 24, 2016

## Blue-eyed Ground-dove Rediscovered in Brazil

Rainforest Trust supported a group of researchers, SAVE Brazil and Butantan Bird Observatory, who have been working to report the rediscovery of the Blue-eyed Ground-dove and develop a conservation plan that secures the Critically Endangered bird’s long-term survival. Discoveries like this highlight the importance of protecting Brazil’s Cerrado ecoregion for the Blue-eyed Ground-dove and many other species so that they may rebound and once again thrive.



JUN 22, 2016

## Brothers Run across Deserts to Defeat Deforestation

Supporters Eric and Paul Chan aim to beat the world record for “Most Desert Races Ran in One Year” while raising funds for Rainforest Trust. Their adventure spans six continents and includes eight of the toughest and most extreme ultra marathons on the planet– from the Sahara Desert of Morocco to the Atacama Desert of Chile. The brothers hope their desert journeys will help to highlight how deforestation is destroying the environment.



JUN 14, 2016

## Partner Recognized for Biodiversity Protection Work

The conservation strategies manager of Rainforest Trust’s partner Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Karau Kuna, won a prestigious Whitley Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature. The award ceremony recognized Kuna’s efforts to protect key species such as the Endangered Matschie’s Tree-kangaroo in the Huon Peninsula located in eastern PNG.



JUN 13, 2016

## Superhero Movie Director Supports Rainforest Conservation

*Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* director James Gunn joined forces with Rainforest Trust to give movie fans the chance to win a poster signed by the cast. The poster was raffled and proceeds from the tickets directly supported critical habitat protection efforts. Gunn has supported multiple Rainforest Trust projects such as the creation of a safe haven for Matschie’s Tree-kangaroos in Papua New Guinea.



APR 08, 2016

## Nearly Extinct Plant Found in South African Geometric Tortoise Preserve

Scientists recently discovered that the Geometric Tortoise Preserve in South Africa, which provides much-needed protection for one of the world’s rarest reptiles, also holds one of the only known populations of the endangered *Aspalathus amoena* plant species. A new survey at the reserve yielded a population of over 50 of the plants – boosting the known population by over 500 percent.



MAR 31, 2016

## New Reserve in Brazil Safeguards Critically Endangered Hoge’s Side-necked Turtle

Thanks to Rainforest Trust donors and other supporters, 236 acres of crucial rainforest and wetland habitat for the Critically Endangered Hoge’s Side-necked Turtle were purchased in Brazil. The species is considered Critically Endangered due to its declining population and lack of protection. Securing this land as a private reserve will help recover the Hoge’s Side-necked Turtle population and may be the best hope of saving it from extinction.



DEC 3, 2015

## Endangered Species Chocolate Chooses Rainforest Trust as 10% GiveBack Partner

The conservation-minded chocolate company Endangered Species Chocolate selected Rainforest Trust as a partner for its 10% Giveback Program from 2016 to 2018. The program commits to donate 10 percent of the company’s annual net profits or at least \$10,000 to partner organizations, funding projects that are deemed most important to achieving their conservation goals.

LEFT PAGE: TOP ROW: ERIC KILBY, MARTIN SCHAEFER; BOTTOM ROW: CHAN BROTHERS, WHITLEY FUND;

RIGHT PAGE: TOP ROW: TURTLE CONSERVANCY; RAFAEL BESSA; BOTTOM ROW: DOUGLAS EUSTON-BROWN; FUNDAÇÃO BIODIVERSITAS; ENDANGERED SPECIES CHOCOLATE;



# Rooting for the Rainforest

## ANNOUNCING ROOTS:

### Monthly Giving Program

Every day, nearly 70,000 acres of Earth's rainforests are destroyed. These vital areas are home to some of the world's most endangered species, struggling to survive amidst the rampant destruction of their habitats.

Rainforest Trust's new monthly giving program, Roots, ensures the organization has the resources and funding necessary to help create protected areas as quickly as possible to save imperiled wildlife from extinction.

Just as roots sustain tropical forests all over the world, Rainforest Trust's Roots program is composed of a network of dedicated supporters who give monthly to enable the organization's strategic conservation work. Importantly, 100 percent of every Roots gift directly benefits Rainforest Trust's most urgent projects – whether it's purchasing land to create nature reserves or designating protected areas like national parks.



Giving monthly has its benefits. For the cost of a cup of coffee or a subway ride, multiple acres of rainforest and tropical habitat can be saved. While it may seem small at first, these gifts grow and connect, protecting large areas as time goes by. With the ease of automatic gift processing, the monthly donations require little to no effort.

As a bonus incentive, Roots members receive perks such as creative e-mail surprises, a Rainforest Trust decal to display their commitment to conservation and an annual digital eCertificate commemorating the number of acres they directly safeguarded that year.

By contributing monthly, friends of Rainforest Trust join a network of devoted heroes who help to protect the world's most imperiled species.

Please contact us today to take a stand and help Rainforest Trust grow its roots.

DONATIONS DOUBLED

SOUTH AMERICA

## Securing a Missing Link in the Amazon by Expanding Peru's Airo Pai Community Reserve

SIZE: 1,338,520 acres PROJECT COST: \$1,488,630 PRICE PER ACRE: \$1.11

### KEY SPECIES:

White-bellied Spider Monkey (EN), Giant Otter (EN), South American Manatee (VU), Yellow-spotted River Turtle (VU), Pacarana (VU), Jaguar (NT)

EN Endangered  
VU Vulnerable  
NT Near Threatened

**The expansion of Airo Pai Community Reserve by Rainforest Trust and a Peruvian partner will secure a combined 7.8 million-acre tri-national corridor, safeguarding a rich swath of Amazon rainforest habitat.**

Home to the world's largest tropical rainforest on Earth, the Amazon is legendary for its great biodiversity that contains millions of species, many still undescribed. However, during the past few decades, nearly 20 percent of its lush forest has been lost, removing a staggering amount of habitat needed by the area's unique wildlife.

Rainforest Trust and local partner Center for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon (CEDIA) are working together to secure the missing link that will create a combined 7.8 million-acre tri-national corridor, safeguarding a massive swath of Amazon rainforest habitat across Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. This critical missing link will be protected by working with local indigenous groups to expand the current Airo Pai Community Reserve along with other regional conservation efforts that will save more than 1.3 million acres of the mega-diverse forests of northwestern Peru from threats such as illegal logging and oil exploitation.

The northern Amazon basin of Peru contains some of the richest plant and animal communities in the world. In fact, a rapid biological inventory done by Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History in the area reported up to 4,000 species of plants, more than 90 amphibian species and 550 species of birds. In a single acre of this rainforest, up to 86 different tree species can occur.

Among hundreds of mammal species in the region, the Endangered White-bellied Spider Monkey has experienced a population decline of at least 50 percent over the past 45 years due to hunting and habitat loss. These threats are causing declines for other wildlife, including the Endangered Giant Otter that primarily resides in large, slow-moving rivers, streams, lakes and swamps in the region. Also found within this

ecosystem, species classified as Vulnerable include the South American Manatee and Yellow-spotted River Turtle.

Though recognized for its high levels of biodiversity, this area faces serious threats from illegal logging, oil exploitation and agricultural encroachment. While the location of the proposed expansion of Airo Pai Community Reserve contains no permanent logging concessions, oil or gas plots, currently these activities are taking place near the area's boundaries. It is critical that protective measures be put in place now to prevent future encroachment.

To protect this vast area of Amazonian lowlands from exploitation, Rainforest Trust will work with CEDIA and local indigenous communities to enlarge Airo Pai Community Reserve and implement an integrated surveillance and control program that includes highly trained forest guards.

The reserve expansion will incorporate involvement from resident indigenous communities to strengthen the protection and management of the entire Güeppí region of northwest Peru. Only one community exists within the proposed expansion of Airo Pai, a small Secoya settlement named Puerto Estrella. The Secoya people are believed to be one of the most ancient groups living in the Amazon and are strong proponents of conservation initiatives. This ongoing community support is vital to the long-term success of the Airo Pai Community Reserve.

**To ensure the success of this urgent project, Rainforest Trust must raise a remaining \$679,037. Through a generous matching gift offer, every donation to help safeguard the Amazon at Airo Pai will be doubled, saving 2 acres for just \$1.11.**



# Urgent Protection

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

## Creating the Red Panda Community Forest Reserve in Nepal

Boasting dramatically diverse ecosystems, the eastern Himalayas are home to Snow Leopards, Chinese Pangolins and Endangered Red Pandas. Intensely hunted for their unique russet-and-cream colored fur as well as their highly valued bushy tails, Red Pandas are becoming increasingly rare – particularly as their habitat quickly disappears, causing a very real threat of extinction.

Rainforest Trust is working with a local partner in Nepal to create the 430,050-acre Red Panda Community Forest Reserve, which is vital to ensuring a future for the site's namesake species as it safeguards necessary habitat while connecting three other protected areas that secure an essential wildlife corridor.

**At \$0.57 per acre and with all gifts matched 1:1, Rainforest Trust seeks \$85,928 to complete project funding.**



## Greater Protection for the Atlantic Rainforest in Cameroon

The forests in Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve are home to several threatened primates, including the Endangered Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee, while the area's coastal and mangrove habitats support many marine species, such as the Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtle. Despite its high biodiversity value, much of the area remains unprotected and threatened by pressure to clear forests for agriculture.

Rainforest Trust is working with a local partner in Cameroon to elevate the protected status of the reserve to a national park while expanding it by an additional 345,800 acres of mangrove and marine habitat.

**At \$1.27 per acre and with all gifts matched 1:1, Rainforest Trust seeks \$216,323 to complete project funding.**



## Safeguarding Endangered Rats and Bats in the Philippines

Recognized as a Key Biodiversity Area, Dinagat Island in the Philippines unfortunately remains without any formal government-sanctioned protected areas. Found only in the Philippines, the Endangered Giant Golden-crowned Flying Fox faces the real threat of extinction due to poaching and destruction of forest habitat. The island of Dinagat is also home to incredibly rare and endemic species such as the Critically Endangered Dinagat Bushy-tailed Cloud Rat and the Endangered Dinagat Gymnure.

To save the island's endangered wildlife, Rainforest Trust is working with a local partner to create four new protected areas that will secure essential forest and coastal habitat while establishing the first-ever designated conservation protection on this unique island.

**At \$8.59 per acre and with all gifts matched 1:1, Rainforest Trust seeks \$67,313 to complete project funding.**



Please use the enclosed envelope or visit [RainforestTrust.org](http://RainforestTrust.org) to make a donation.