

RAINFOREST TRUST®



VOL. VI: 2017

SPECIES. COMMUNITIES. PLANET.

Sources

Page 10:
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Page 15:
Species status: IUCN Red List
Carbon Storage: Borneo - above and below ground; Peru - above ground; Madagascar - above ground



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

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Message from the CEO

Dear Friends,

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

Our mission, our focus over time, has neither dimmed nor wavered: we protect and preserve habitat to save species at risk. And we have excelled at this. Working with our partners, we have safeguarded more than 17 million acres called home by endangered and threatened species such as orangutans, chameleons, jaguars and many more.

Protected areas are like a stone thrown into a pond, sending ripples far and wide. In reviewing our projects in the Americas, Africa and Asia-Pacific, we realized the complete story of our impact on species, communities and the planet as a whole had not been shared.

On the pages that follow, we begin to explore the ripples made by our protected areas. We go beyond the species we have helped to save, to the communities made stronger by our work and the planet made more resilient by the presence of rainforests.

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

These increased threats mean our work is even more important now. This is why we have challenged ourselves to do more by saving a total of 50 million acres by 2020 as part of our SAVES Challenge.

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

For species, for communities and for the planet,

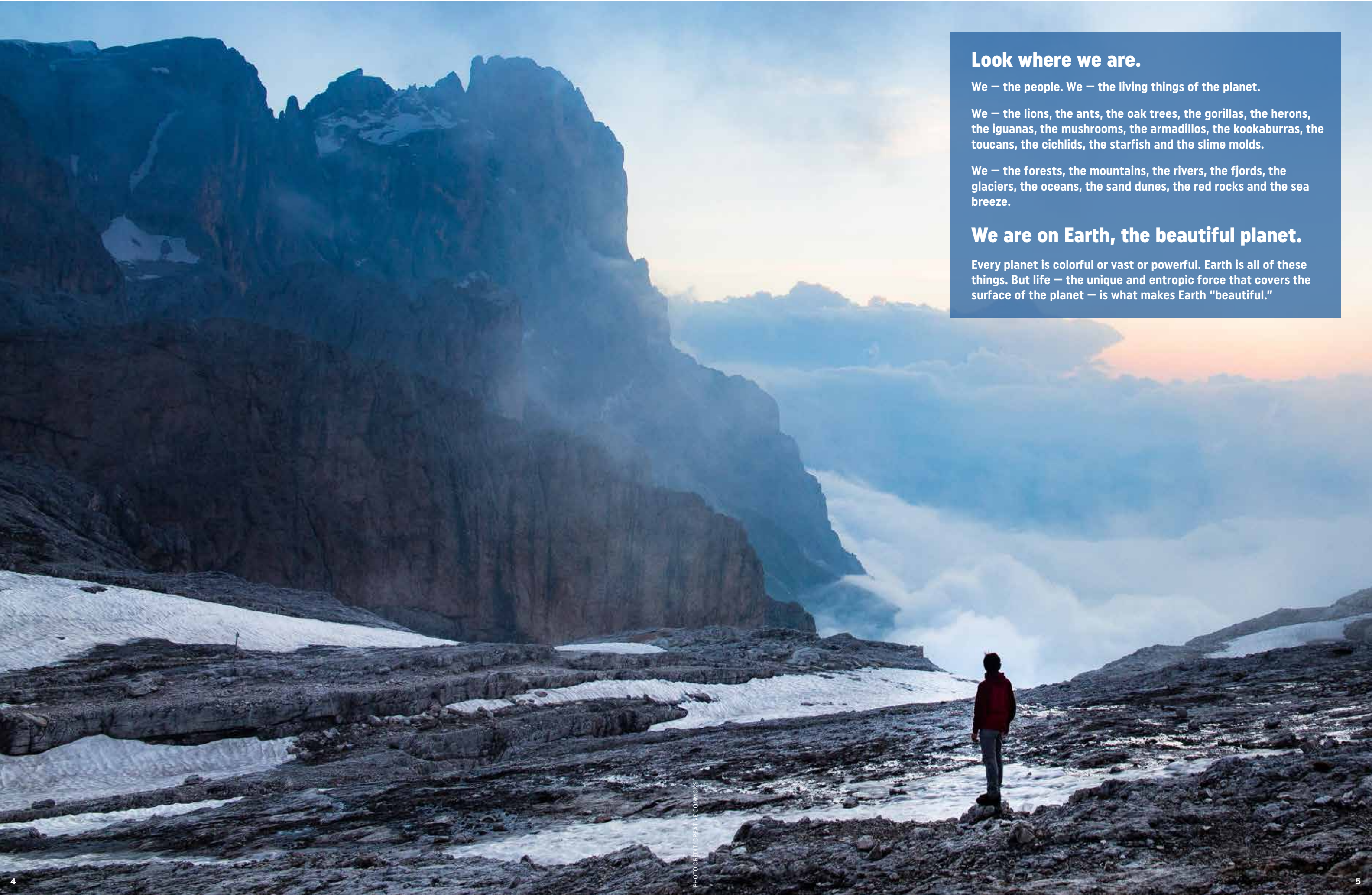
Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO

Paul Salaman



Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO

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



Look where we are.

We — the people. We — the living things of the planet.

We — the lions, the ants, the oak trees, the gorillas, the herons, the iguanas, the mushrooms, the armadillos, the kookaburras, the toucans, the cichlids, the starfish and the slime molds.

We — the forests, the mountains, the rivers, the fjords, the glaciers, the oceans, the sand dunes, the red rocks and the sea breeze.

We are on Earth, the beautiful planet.

Every planet is colorful or vast or powerful. Earth is all of these things. But life — the unique and entropic force that covers the surface of the planet — is what makes Earth “beautiful.”



Imagine the living things of Earth —

a jaguar pawing through leaf-litter; a chameleon in mid-step; an orangutan waking up.

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



Each of these creatures depends on their habitat.

The jaguar relies on the Amazon rainforest to hunt, the chameleon relies on the forests of Madagascar to find water and the orangutan relies on the tall, Bornean trees to nest.

TOP PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC KILBY; REMAINING IMAGES: CREATIVE COMMONS
SECOND DOWN, FAR RIGHT PHOTO CREDIT: CEDIA; REMAINING IMAGES: CREATIVE COMMONS



We rely on our habitat as well.

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

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

But life is not just beautiful.

Life is complicated and harsh. Life is uncompromising and unprecedented. Life is difficult and immovable. Life does not let us take it for granted.

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

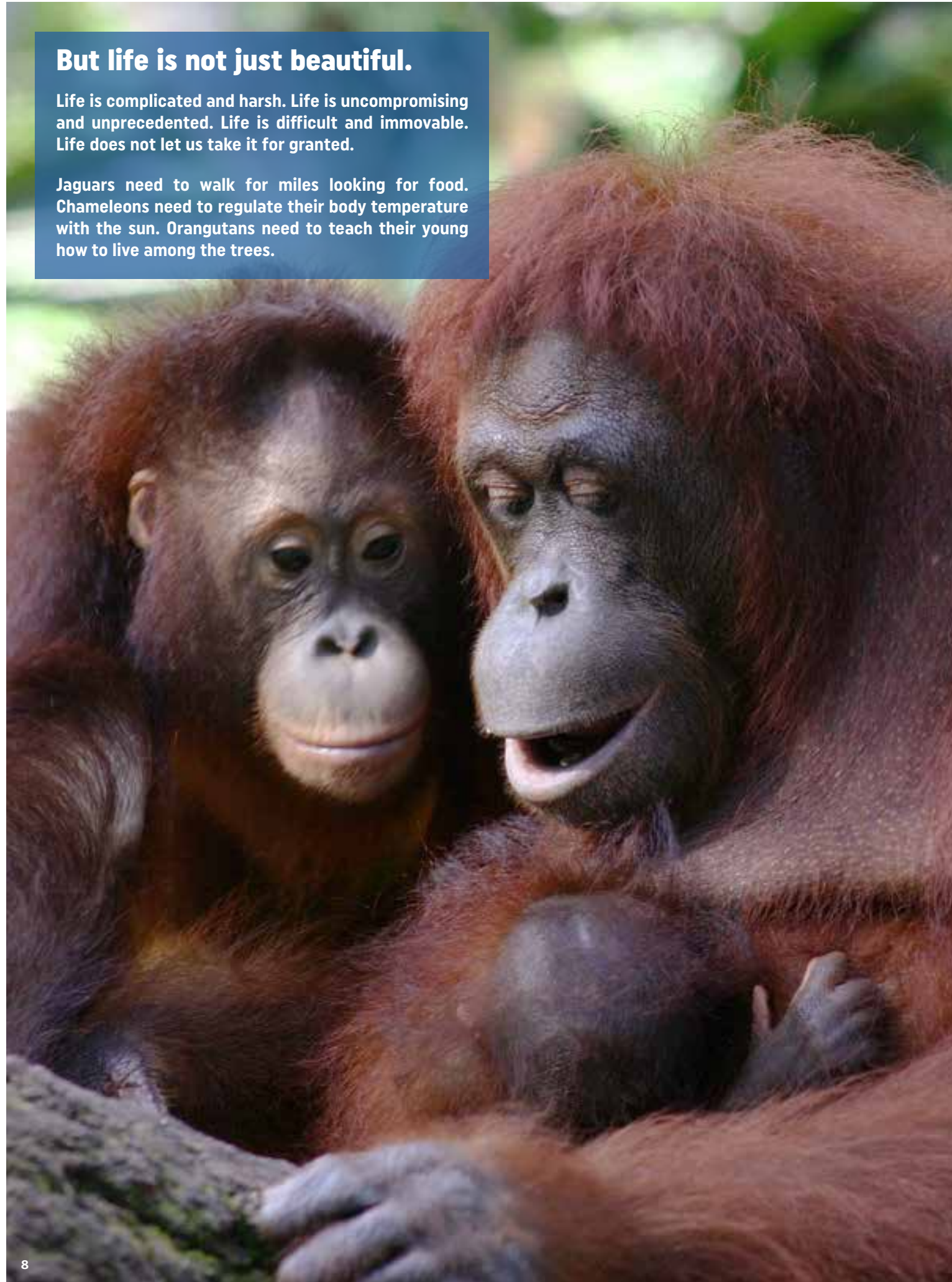
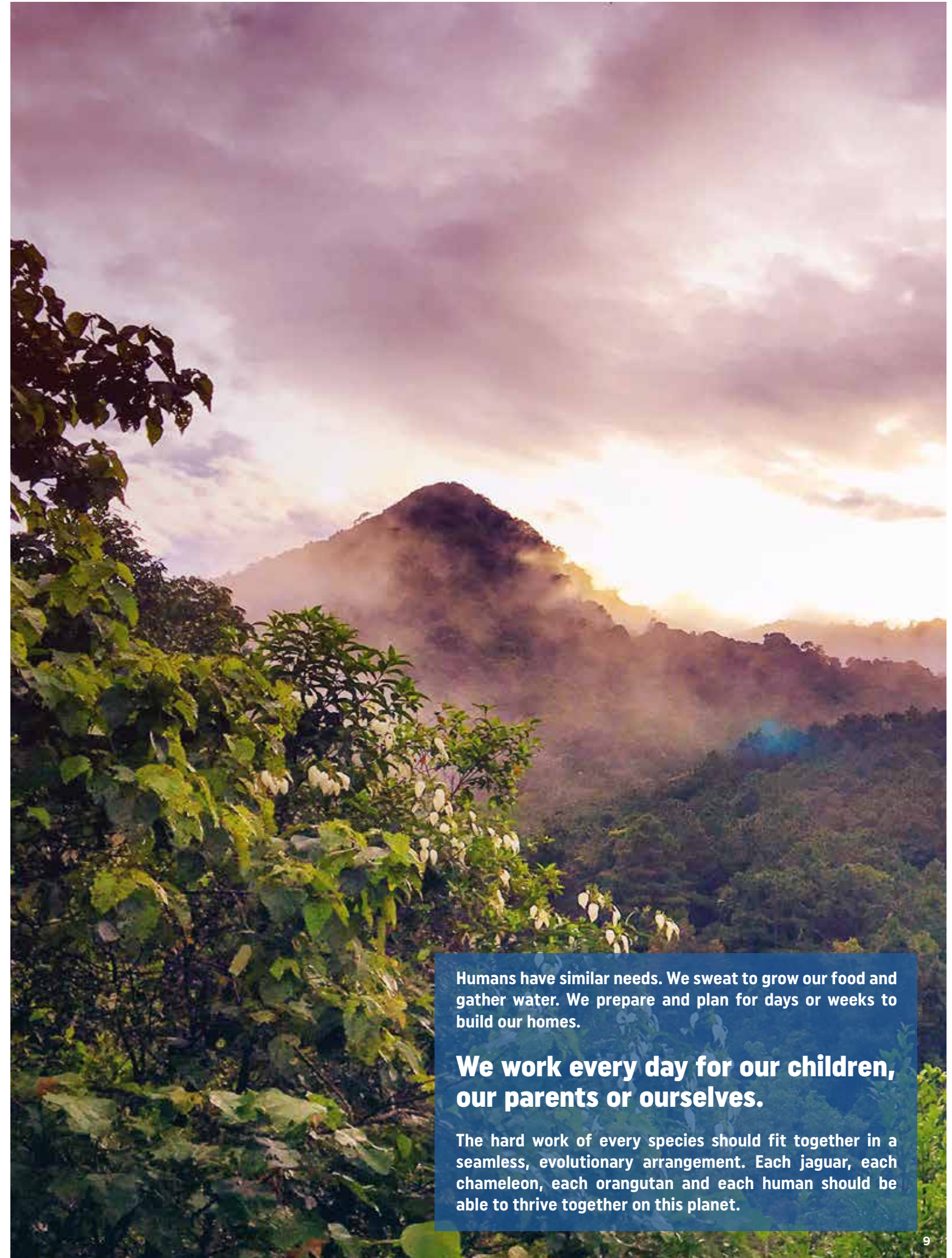


PHOTO CREDIT: GHEM7/FILICKR CC

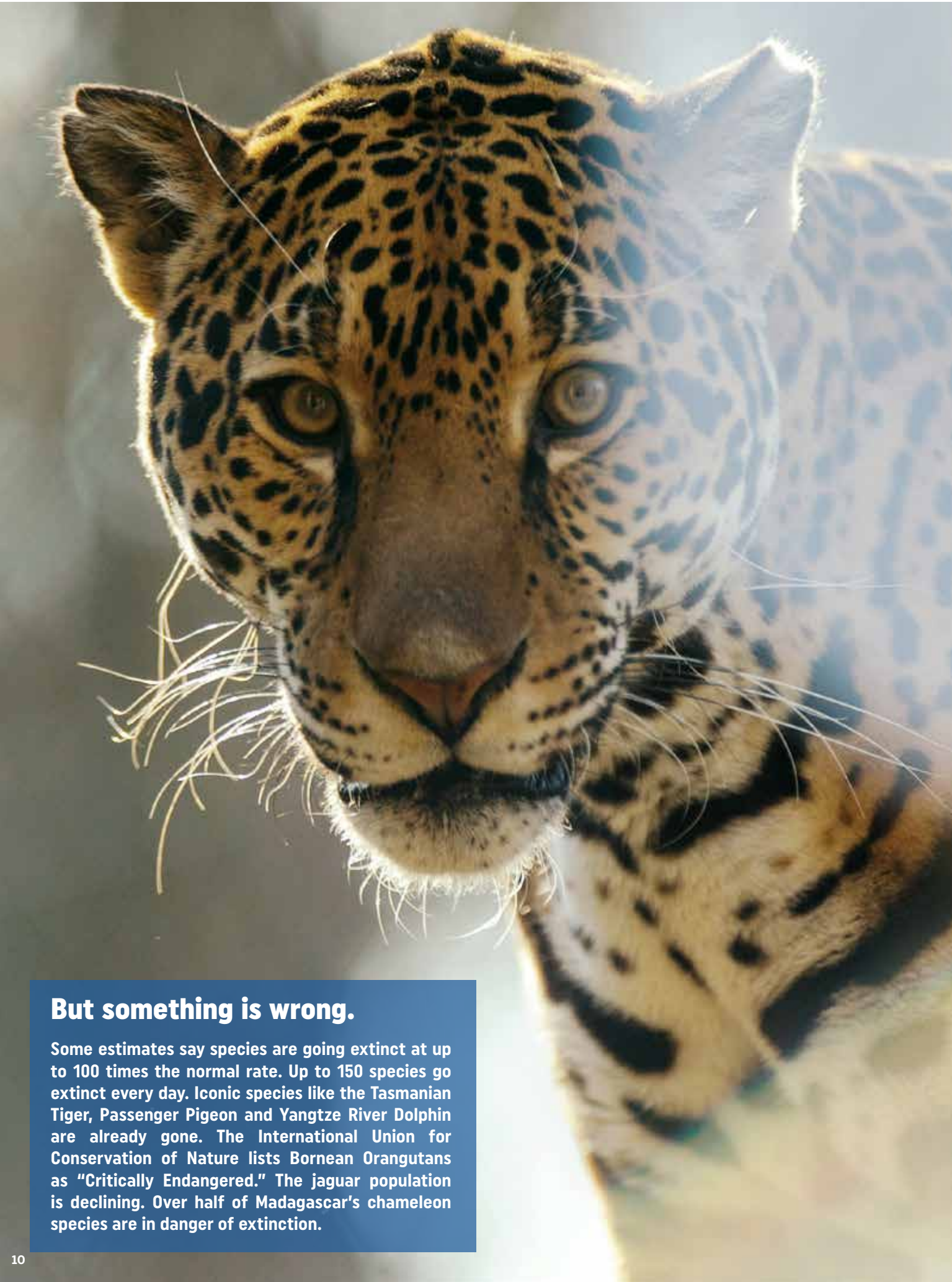
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Humans have similar needs. We sweat to grow our food and gather water. We prepare and plan for days or weeks to build our homes.

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

The hard work of every species should fit together in a seamless, evolutionary arrangement. Each jaguar, each chameleon, each orangutan and each human should be able to thrive together on this planet.



But something is wrong.

Some estimates say species are going extinct at up to 100 times the normal rate. Up to 150 species go extinct every day. Iconic species like the Tasmanian Tiger, Passenger Pigeon and Yangtze River Dolphin are already gone. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists Bornean Orangutans as "Critically Endangered." The jaguar population is declining. Over half of Madagascar's chameleon species are in danger of extinction.

PHOTO CREDIT: CREATIVE COMMONS

PHOTO CREDIT: CREATIVE COMMONS



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

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

This shouldn't be happening.



So what do we do?

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

How do we realign the global ecosystem?

THERE ARE OVER 700 MILLION ACRES OF INTACT TROPICAL FOREST LANDSCAPES LEFT UNPROTECTED AND AT RISK.

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

Deforestation in Madagascar leads to species extinctions that affect the global ecosystem. Deforestation in the Amazon alters rainfall around the entire planet. Deforestation in Borneo releases massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere and warms the planet to dangerous levels.

And these changes haven't been minor.

Nearly 70,000 acres of tropical forest are destroyed every day. The oceans are acidifying. The glaciers are melting. The deserts are expanding.

PHOTO CREDIT: BERNAT RIPOLL/BNF

We go back to the root cause of the issues.

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

We protect habitat.

At Rainforest Trust, we work acre by acre.

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

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

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

And we're not slowing down.

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

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

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

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

Together, we're saving species, caring for communities and protecting the planet.

A STRONGHOLD FOR THE BORNEAN ORANGUTAN

TOTAL CARBON STORAGE:
~282,975,000 METRIC TONS
CO₂ EQUIVALENT

KEY SPECIES:
Bornean Orangutan (CR), Bornean White-Bearded Gibbon (EN), Proboscis Monkey (EN)

A MISSING LINK IN THE AMAZON

TOTAL CARBON STORAGE:
~292,182,000 METRIC TONS
CO₂ EQUIVALENT

KEY SPECIES:
White-bellied Spider Monkey (EN), Giant Otter (EN), Jaguar (NT)

THE LOST FOREST OF MADAGASCAR

TOTAL CARBON STORAGE:
~635,000 METRIC TONS CO₂
EQUIVALENT

KEY SPECIES:
Ring-tailed Lemur (EN), Fossa (VU)

IUCN Status: CR = Critically Endangered,
EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable,
NT = Near Threatened

PHOTO CREDIT: INSTITUTO ARAGUAIA

Urgent Protection

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

Saving a Stronghold for the Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutan in Indonesia

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

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

Price Per Acre: \$2.00

All Gifts Currently Matched 3:1 Thanks to the SAVES Challenge and Another Generous Friend



Securing a Missing Link in the Amazon in Peru

Despite being known around the world for its incredible biodiversity and the millions of species that call it home, the Amazon is losing habitat at an incredible rate.

Rainforest Trust and a local partner are working to protect the missing link that will create a combined 7.8 million-acre tri-national corridor, safeguarding a massive swath of critical Amazon rainforest habitat across Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

Price Per Acre: \$1.11

All Gifts Matched 1:1 Thanks to the SAVES Challenge



Safeguarding the Lost Forest in Madagascar

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

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

Price Per Acre: \$206

All Gifts Matched 1:1 Thanks to the SAVES Challenge



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