RAINFOREST TRUST®

VOL. XVI: 2021

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

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DONATE NOW!

RAINFOREST TRUST RECEIVES PLATINUM SEAL FROM GUIDESTAR

Rainforest Trust is committed to the highest level of transparency to ensure that your donations go directly to *Conservation Action,* so we are thrilled to announce that we have received a *2021 Platinum Seal of Transparency with GuideStar.*

We are also excited to share that since 2014, Charity Navigator has recognized Rainforest Trust as one of the most efficient and effective nonprofit organizations in the country with the *highest possible rating of 4 stars.*

GUIDESTAR PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY 2021

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★
Four Star Charity

RAINFOREST TRUST®

Rainforest Trust saves endangered wildlife and protects our planet by creating rainforest reserves through partnerships, community engagement and donor support.

BACKGROUND: SÉBASTIEN LECOCQ / SHUTTERSTOCK

$200 MILLION
ALLOCATED TO SAVE SPECIES AND HABITAT

125 MILLION
ACRES SAVED BY 2025 STORING 15B TONS OF CO_2

50 MILLION
ACRES TURNED OVER TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

RAINFOREST TRUST
SETS AMBITIOUS FIVE-YEAR GOALS

The next five years will be critical for addressing the great crises of our time: destruction of nature and biodiversity, the resulting spillover of disease from wildlife to humans, and disruption of the stable climate that has nurtured nature and people for millennia.

Rainforest Trust and our partners and supporters have an opportunity to contribute to solving these crises, out of all proportion to our means. To do that, we have spent the past six months working across the organization — board, staff, council, partners, donors and experts — framing ambitious, impactful but achievable goals for 2021-2025.

To do all this, we will need to raise and allocate $200 million to new projects. With your help, we can do this, together. To learn more about our strategic plan and to help us achieve these goals, please go to: **rainforesttrust.org/strategic-plan**

GOAL 1 SAVE ENDANGERED SPECIES

By 2025, Rainforest Trust will have provided a lasting home for half of all known threatened bird and mammal species on Earth — and a fifth of all known threatened terrestrial and freshwater species.

GOAL 2 PROTECT THE PLANET

By 2025, Rainforest Trust will have protected or be in the process of protecting 125 million acres, including 7% of all currently unprotected high-integrity tropical and subtropical forests, permanently locking up 15 billion tons of carbon.

GOAL 3 ENGAGE PEOPLE IN OUR CONSERVATION MISSION

By 2025, Rainforest Trust will have reached half a billion people with our brand and mission and will have respected, engaged and empowered people in all aspects of our work.

BACKGROUND: GNP LANDSCAPES; **LOWER LEFT:** BRUNO GARRIDO MACIAS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Bob and Rainforest Trust Board Member Dr. E. O. Wilson at a Rainforest Trust event in 2018.

WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS...

DR. ROBERT RIDGELY

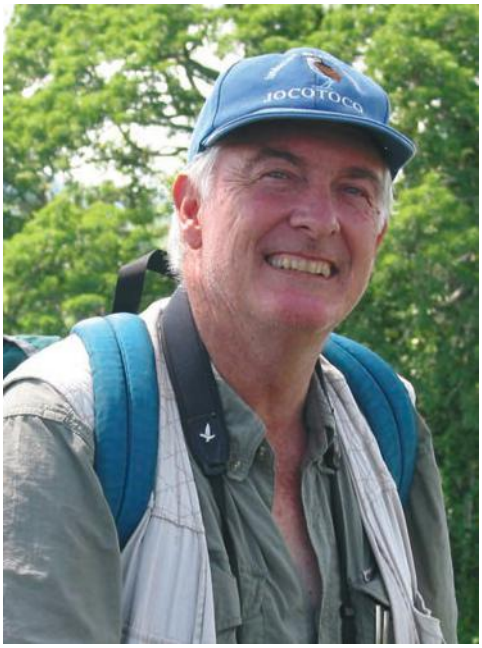
It is with decidedly mixed feelings that we announce the formal retirement of Dr. Robert Ridgely as President of Rainforest Trust. The much-attributed metaphor has never been more appropriate when we stand on Bob's broad shoulders, allowing us to see further, and accomplish more, than we could otherwise.

Bob was already an acclaimed neotropical ornithologist when he and John Moore discovered the Jocotoco Antpitta *Grallaria ridgelyi* in southern Ecuador in 1997, and it was his vision that protecting this shy and endangered species would mean protecting its habitat. And he set about doing just that — establishing Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco and the Tapichalaca Biological Reserve in 1998.

For two decades, Bob has helped lead both Fundación Jocotoco and Rainforest Trust, putting that vision into powerful action. Under Bob's leadership, the two organizations established and permanently protected reserves to save endangered, often range-restricted and endemic species. That has resulted in the protection of more than 34 million acres and 800 Critically Endangered and Endangered species around the globe.

Here at Rainforest Trust, we are incredibly pleased that Bob will continue to provide us with his wisdom, vision, advice and strong shoulders as our President Emeritus and Member of our Advisory Council and Conservation Committee.


The Jocotoco Antpitta *Grallaria ridgelyi*.



Bob visiting Fundación Jocotoco in Ecuador.


Bob stands in front of a monument of the Jocotoco Antpitta, which he and John Moore discovered in Southern Ecuador in 1997.

TOP: RAINFOREST TRUST; **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** RAINFOREST TRUST; **BOTTOM RIGHT:** RAINFOREST TRUST; TOP RIGHT: PAUL S. WOLF / SHUTTERSTOCK

URGENT PROJECT

LOCATION
Brazil

788
Acres

COST
$1,214,335

STORED CO_2 EQUIVALENT OF
37,580 PASSENGER VEHICLE EMISSIONS FOR 1 YEAR

SPECIES AT RISK: CHERRY-THROATED TANAGER

BRAZIL

With its grey back, black mask and bright red throat, the Critically Endangered Cherry-throated Tanager is a strikingly beautiful bird. It is also one of the world's rarest. Seen only once after its discovery in 1870, the species was believed to be extinct until a small population was rediscovered in the highly vulnerable Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest in 1988.

Large-scale agricultural conversion of its habitat has pushed this species to the brink of extinction. Only 10-20 individuals of this range-restricted endemic species have been confirmed in the wild, forced to move between forest fragments to survive. Rampant deforestation is a threat to the majority of birds, but for endemic species like this, the clearing of just one group of trees could destroy its one and only habitat.

Protecting the birds of Brazil has been a conservation priority for Rainforest Trust for many years. After receiving word from our Brazilian partner, Instituto Marcos Daniel, that they found one of the only remaining Cherry-throated Tanager nests, our organizations have collaborated to envision a plan to protect the last remaining habitat for this imperiled species.

We are now working together to save the last population of the species from extinction through the creation of a 788-acre protected area of spectacularly beautiful primary Atlantic Rainforest. This is the last stand for the Cherry-throated Tanager and will become an exquisite reserve just hours from Rio de Janeiro.

LEARN MORE:
rainforesttrust.org/tanager

"This project is critical to save one of Brazil's rarest and most beautiful endemic species," said Bob Ridgely, Rainforest Trust President Emeritus. "But this land will also be an important step for global conservation, as it supports numerous other exceedingly rare birds as well as some endangered monkeys and even an endemic sloth!"

TOP: GUSTAVO MAGNAGO - IMD; **LOWER LEFT:** GUSTAVO MAGNAGO - IMD

SAVING FORESTS, FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

On Earth Day this year, Rainforest Trust launches our new **Rainforest Climate Action Fund.**

Funding projects that sequester large amounts of CO_2, helping in the fight against climate change.

See back cover for more information.

On Earth Day, April 22, Rainforest Trust will launch the Rainforest Climate Action Fund to enable our donors and partners to maximize the impact of their support on climate change.

When Rainforest Trust was founded in 1988, the importance and urgency of climate change was not well understood. Nor was the critical role forests play in removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in wood and soil. Today we know that about a quarter of the 1.5 trillion tons of CO2 we humans have emitted since the industrial revolution has been caused by land-cover change, especially deforestation. At the same time, almost half of these emissions have been safely re-absorbed by oceans and forests. But this process of sequestration will end and the stored carbon will be dumped back into the atmosphere if we continue to degrade nature.

OVER 1.5 TRILLION TONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE
has been released into the atmosphere by man

Each of the 193 protected areas we and our partners have created since 1988 have helped save endangered species and ecosystems from extinction. But many of these projects also have had a huge impact protecting the planet from climate change. Several types of projects are particularly impactful.

FRONTIER FORESTS

First are projects which massively reduce carbon emissions in the immediate future because they protect forests in imminent danger of destruction, so-called "frontier forests." As the project prevents this from happening, our partner will have the opportunity to sell "reduced deforestation carbon credits" to companies keen to offset their own unavoidable emissions, and those sales will support forest protection. But without our initial land-purchase grant, none of this would be possible.

SUPER-SEQUESTERERS

Second are projects which protect forests that are actively drawing large amounts of carbon out of the atmosphere and sequestering it underground. Most forests do this to some degree because decomposition is incomplete, allowing carbon-rich soil to accumulate. But forests inundated by

TOP: ALFRED / SHUTTERSTOCK; **MIDDLE RIGHT:** RICH CAREY / SHUTTERSTOCK; **BOTTOM:** NATTAPONG PONBUMRUNGWONG / SHUTTERSTOCK

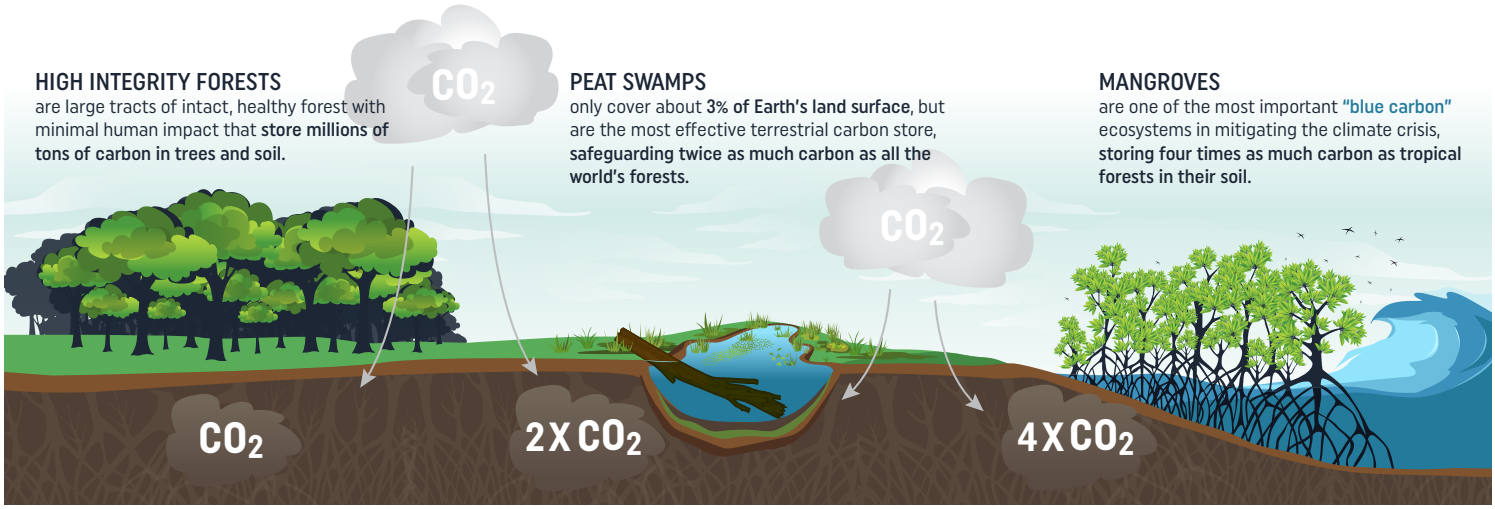
water are particularly efficient sequesterers because the water blocks the oxygen required for decomposition. These "super-sequesterers" include the flooded forests of the Amazon, swamp forests of the Congo, peat forests of Borneo, and mangroves which fringe many of the world's tropical coastlines.

CARBON VAULTS

The third type of projects lock up carbon in large, tall, intact hardwood forests in perpetuity for a reasonable cost. Such protected forests store vast amounts of carbon in their wood, roots and soil, locking up much of that carbon in perpetuity. Even if these forests are not slated for immediate destruction, they will, if unprotected, eventually be degraded and destroyed, so the long-term impact on global carbon budgets, and the planet, is huge.

It all starts, however, with creating protected areas, and that is where charitable giving can have such a huge impact. Most experts agree that a third of the global effort on climate change should be on nature-based solutions: halting deforestation, building back soils and planting trees. Moreover, our track record of preventing deforestation long-term has been great. Of the protected areas we have helped create since 1988, 92% have seen less than 5% total deforestation.

"We are now actively seeking some projects that have a disproportionate impact on climate," said Rainforest Trust CEO Dr. James Deutsch, "and this Earth Day we launch our Rainforest Climate Action Fund to enable our donors and partners to maximize the impact of their support on climate change."



MIDDLE: DR MORLEY READ / SHUTTERSTOCK; **RIGHT:** ECUADORPOSTALES / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Endangered Crowned Solitary Eagle

THIS PAGE: PABLO RODRIQUEZ MERKEL / SHUTTERSTOCK

SECURING THE DEFORESTATION FRONTIER & FIGHTING FIRES IN THE BOLIVIAN AMAZON

BOLIVIA

The Bajo Paragua forest of Eastern Bolivia is ground zero in the fight to save the Amazon Rainforest from logging, fire, and conversion to agriculture. During the terrible fire season of 2020, nearly 10% of the forest burned. If these trends continue, the entire forest, an area one-and-a-half times the size of Delaware, will be lost within a few years. With it will go the livelihoods and culture, the very being of the indigenous Guarasug'we people, as well as 354,251,601 metric tons of carbon – up in smoke.

To hold the line, Rainforest Trust and our partner, Fundación Natura Bolivia, propose to work with the Guarasug'we and local governments to create the San Ignacio and Concepcion Municipal Protected Areas, safeguarding over 2 million acres of rich, old-growth, lowland rainforest.

We will train, equip and deploy patrols and fire brigades to protect the forest and its indigenous residents. Some additional forest loss is inevitable over the next two years, but we think we can slow it down and secure the remaining forest within a few years. The burnt patches will regenerate; the Amazon will survive.

This project will be one of the first to be supported by Rainforest Trust's new Rainforest Climate Action Fund – see back cover.

TOP: FUNDACIÓN NATURA BOLIVIA; **BOTTOM LEFT:** NATURE BOLIVIA; **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** NATURE BOLIVIA; **BOTTOM RIGHT:** NATURE BOLIVIA

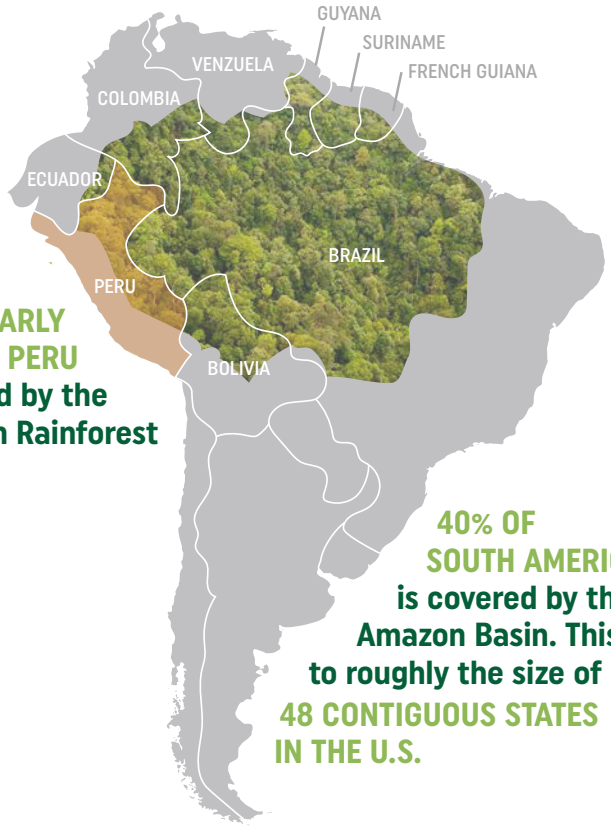
RAINFOREST TRUST AND THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

The Peruvian Amazon is the second largest swath of the Amazon, after the Brazilian. It covers nearly 60% of Peru's landscape and is the life force for everything around it, including 3,940 unique and threatened species. These forests are home to hundreds of indigenous communities, who rely solely on this land to survive. The local benefits are obvious, but the Peruvian Amazon is also vital in the global fight against climate change as one of our planet's most important carbon stores, containing over 48.2 billion metric tons of carbon.

Despite its critical importance, this landscape is under significant threat from agricultural development. Slash-and-burn deforestation is rampant, resulting in uncontrollable wildfires that burn for weeks at a time, releasing millions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere, putting the future of the planet in jeopardy. Deforestation rates are the highest in decades, driving species out of their habitat and leaving countless people with no refuge. Rainforest Trust began investing in

the protection of the Peruvian Amazon with our partner, Center for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon (CEDIA), over 25 years ago. CEDIA's approach focused on empowering local indigenous communities to gain legal rights to their land, thus preventing commercial land developers from obtaining the land and destroying their forest home. Working together, Rainforest Trust and CEDIA have embarked upon a multi-year, multi-project journey to

MAP OF THE AMAZON RAINFOREST



NEARLY 60% OF PERU is covered by the Amazon Rainforest

40% OF SOUTH AMERICA is covered by the Amazon Basin. This equates to roughly the size of 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES IN THE U.S.

TOP: WAREN BRASSE / UNSPLASH; **RIGHT:** ADALBERT DRAGON / SHUTTERSTOCK

prevent deforestation to the benefit of the communities and the wildlife.

So far, we have protected nearly 11 million acres through several large-scale projects — an area larger than the entire state of Maryland. Many of our endeavours are still ongoing; we are currently working to protect an additional 6 million acres.

"This fruitful and long-lasting relationship has resulted in the protection and sustainable management of millions of beautiful acres of Peruvian Amazon, securing legal ownership of indigenous territories and establishing natural protected areas co-managed by local indigeous communities," said Dani Rivera, CEDIA Project Director. "One of our organization's founding principles is that every acre legally secured for a strong and well-organized indigenous community is an acre secured for conservation. More than 100 communities titled in the frame of our joint work with Rainforest Trust, proves this idea right."

For Rainforest Trust, our continuing work in the Peruvian Amazon is critical because it is the intersection between the pillars that underpin our mission: Species, Communities, Planet. Species: a total of 2,705 threatened species — over 2/3 of the total threatened species in the Peruvian Amazon — are thriving within the reserves. Communities: we have helped 156 communities, and counting, gain legal title to their land so they can sustainably manage their ancestral forests. Planet: combined, our protection safeguards 2.8 billion tons of carbon to the benefit of the entire planet and all its communities.

MIDDLE: CEDIA; **LOWER LEFT:** CEDIA; **LOWER RIGHT:** NATALIA TAMKOVICH / SHUTTERSTOCK

URGENT PROJECT

LOCATION
Puerto Rico

48
Acres

COST
$146,049

STORED CO_2 EQUIVALENT OF 1,788 PASSENGER VEHICLE EMISSIONS FOR 1 YEAR

SPECIES AT RISK: PUERTO RICAN CAVE FROG

PUERTO RICO

Climate change threatens the survival of Puerto Rico's frogs. Within the last decade, unpredictable climate shifts have caused a decrease in precipitation and increase in drought, altering the natural environment these sensitive species rely on.

A prominent victim is the endemic and Vulnerable Cave Coqui, natively known as "guajón." This name is derived from the rock formations of the species' cave habitat. Its bulging black eyes, pale skin and eerie call have earned it the nickname "demon of Puerto Rico." If conservation action is not taken soon, the species' phantom-like reputation will soon be a reality – climate change has led to sharp population decline.

One of the last safe havens for this and many other frog species are the lush high-altitude rainforests of Cerro La Torrecilla. Among the highest peaks of Guadarraya Ridge in southeast Puerto Rico, this habitat's climate, soil and elevation conditions create a rich landscape for amphibians to thrive. It is the only place on Earth where the Cave Frog, the Critically Endangered Richmond's Coqui and Melodius Coqui can be found living in harmony.

To safeguard this critical habitat, Rainforest Trust is working with our local partner, Para la Naturaleza, to expand the region's Marín Alto Natural Protected Area by 48 acres, increasing the total size to 277 acres. This is a once-in-a-lifetime project that will not only ensure the survival of the Cave Frog, but create a paradise for some of Puerto Rico's other beloved and vulnerable frogs.

"Frogs breathe and drink through their skin so they are sensitive to their environment," said conservationist-in-the-making, frog enthusiast, and Rainforest Trust supporter, Justin Sather. "So when they suffer, it tells us the world needs our help."

TOP: JAN P. ZEGARRA; LEFT: PARA LA NATURALEZA

Puerto Rican Rainforest

THIS PAGE: DENIS VA DE WATER / SHUTTERSTOCK

PROTECTED

LOCATION
Laos

133,098
Acres

COST
$1,755,925

STORED CO2 EQUIVALENT OF 5,232,119 PASSENGER VEHICLE EMISSIONS FOR 1 YEAR

PROTECTING MOUNTAIN FOREST IN LAOS

LAOS

The Annamite Mountains of Laos, which straddle Laos, Vietnam and a small portion of northeast Cambodia, served as an evergreen refuge for many species during the last ice age. As a result, this beautiful landscape is a storehouse of biodiversity with some of the highest rates of endemism — unique species found nowhere else — of anywhere on Earth.

In February, Rainforest Trust along with our local partner, Asian Arks, and the Government of Laos, safeguarded 133,098 acres of vulnerable mountain forest through the establishment of the Khoun Xe Nong Ma (KXNM) National Protected Area. This protection will help reduce the illegal hunting that has escalated in this remote forest in recent years, with rampant snaring threatening many of the species that call this region home.

KXNM now protects one of the most vital forest blocks in the region, home to several rare species, and thought to be one of the last remaining habitats on earth for the Critically Endangered Saola — a rare antelope often referred to as the "Asian Unicorn."

Recent monitoring surveys undertaken by Asian Arks with the support of the local Makong and Chilee indigenous communities have confirmed that KXNM still harbors globally threatened wildlife that can no longer be found in much of the surrounding forests, such as the Critically Endangered Large-antlered Muntjac, Red-shanked Douc Langur, as well as the Endangered Crested Argus.

Protecting this forest will store over 24 million tons of carbon — equivalent to the energy use of every home in the state of Maryland for one year — to the benefit of our entire planet and all its species.

TOP: BEE-EATER / SHUTTERSTOCK; **RIGHT:** BILL ROBICHAUD; **BOTTOM:** FEATHER COLLECTOR / SHUTTERSTOCK

CRITICAL PEAT SWAMPS OF BORNEO

BORNEO

Peat swamp forests are one of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth. These lowland forest ecosystems are formed over centuries when organic material like leaves and wood partially decompose in areas with high rainfall, high temperature and poor drainage. They represent a unique and diverse biome, home to a variety of rare wildlife that contribute to the world's biodiversity.

Although they only account for 3% of Earth's surface, peat swamps are a key component of Earth's carbon cycle — these habitats are the largest terrestrial carbon store on the planet, absorbing twice as much carbon as all the world's forests.

Rainforest Trust is working to safeguard peat habitats and the unique biodiversity within. In January, Rainforest Trust and our local partner, Yayasan Konservasi – Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia (YK-RASI), created the Kawasan Ekosistem Esensial Habitat Pesut Mahakam protected area covering a vulnerable stretch of the Mahakam River in Indonesia that encompasses 440,297 acres of critical peat swamp habitat. This new protected area overlaps the 106,544-acre Aquatic Reserve of Pesut Mahakam, created last year and expands protection to the surrounding land-scape, vital for conservation and carbon sequestration.

This success could not come at a better time for the region, as peatland in Southeast Asia is being rapidly cleared, drained and burned for agricultural development and palm oil plantations. When it is destroyed, peatland releases centuries' worth of stored carbon into the atmosphere.

"Preservation of the peat swamp habitat within Kawasan Ekosistem Esensial Habitat Pesut Mahakam significantly contributes to mitigating climate change," said Danielle Kreb, YK-RASI Scientific Program Leader. "In this protected area alone, nearly 180 million metric tons of carbon is stored."

The new protected area ensures survival for some of Indonesia's most unique and threatened species including 80%-100% of a Critically Endangered Mahakam River subpopulation of the Irrawaddy Dolphin, Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodiles and Bornean Orangutans, and Endangered Proboscis Monkeys, as well as the Endangered Storm's Stork and Vulnerable Wallace's Hawk-eagle.

TOP: ECOPIX / SHUTTERSTOCK; **LOWER LEFT:** GREG HUME / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Black-faced Black Spider Monkey

THIS PAGE: VLADISLAV T. JIROUSEK / SHUTTERSTOCK

URGENT PROJECT

SPECIES AT RISK: BLACK-FACED BLACK SPIDER MONKEY

PERU, BRAZIL AND BOLIVIA

The Endangered Black-faced Black Spider Monkey, commonly known as the Peruvian Spider Monkey, is native to the tropical forests of Peru, Brazil and Bolivia. These long-haired black monkeys primarily spend their days in groups, scattered among the treetops. Incredibly skilled climbers, this charismatic species uses its long arms and tail to climb throughout the upper canopy foraging for fruit and insects.

Unfortunately, the dense tree cover Black-faced Black Spider Monkeys rely on to survive is rapidly disappearing. Thousands of acres of vital rainforest habitat each day are lost to

POPULATIONS HAVE DECREASED BY 50% IN THE PAST 45 YEARS

rapid slash-and-burn deforestation driven by agricultural development, cattle ranches, fruit and palm oil plantations.

When habitat shrinks significantly, populations of the Black-faced Black Spider Monkey are left trapped with no recourse, unable to move or grow. This destruction, as well as hunting for the bushmeat trade, has caused populations to decrease by an alarming 50% within the past 45 years.

Not only is the species losing its natural range to forest clearing, the fragmented habitat that remains is subject to massive wildfires ignited from harsh dry seasons brought on by an unpredictable climate.

Rainforest Trust has several projects in Bolivia and Peru dedicated to safeguarding critical forest habitat so the Black-faced Black Spider Monkey can continue to thrive in the wild, including our newest project working with our local partners to protect 2 million acres of Bolivia's Bajo Paragua rainforest for the permanent safety of this and many other primate species.

LEARN MORE: rainforesttrust.org/spider-monkey

"Safeguarding forests for threatened primates like the Black-faced Black Spider Monkey is especially critical now," said Juliana Rossi de Camargo, Rainforest Trust Conservation Officer. "This species is losing habitat by the second, jeopardizing its survival. Creating protected areas and titling indigenous lands is one of the most effective ways to ensure that these forests are maintained in the long-term."

PROTECTED

STORING BLUE CARBON IN THE CÔTE D'IVOIRE

IVORY COAST

In December 2020, Rainforest Trust worked with our local partner, Conservation des Espèces Marines (CEM) to create the first ever Marine Protected Area in Côte d'Ivoire on the coast of West Africa.

Not only will this designation benefit the local wildlife, but this habitat is critical to the health of our planet because it stores "blue carbon." Blue carbon is stored in Earth's marine and freshwater ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrass meadows and tidal marshes. The plants in these systems sequester large amounts of carbon, pulling it out of the atmosphere as CO2, holding it in their tissues, and eventually accumulating it in underwater sediments where lack of oxygen prevents decomposition and return of the carbon to the atmosphere.

The Grand Béréby Marine Protected Area spans 640,000 acres of coastal mangrove and marine habitat and stores over 64,805 metric tons of blue carbon. This project also ensures safety for Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtles, Critically Endangered Atlantic Humpback Dolphins, Endangered Green Turtles, Endangered Whale Sharks and Endangered Scalloped Hammerheads.

Marine ecosystems are also vital for communities. Protected areas that safeguard watersheds from source to sea, or "ridge to reef," help ensure that local populations have access to clean water and food.

CEM has incorporated the natural resource needs of the local community into the management plan for the Grand Béréby Marine Protected Area. They are educating and assisting local communities with sustainable fishery practices and, in a post-COVID-19 world, increasing eco-tourism to bolster the local economy.

"This is an historic designation and Rainforest Trust is proud to have played a supporting role with our partner, CEM," said James Lewis, Rainforest Trust Vice President of Conservation. "Protecting vital marine habitat and keeping 'Blue Carbon' stored in the Côte d'Ivoire MPA is critical to helping communities, species and our planet."

Rainforest Trust is continuing work with CEM on a 1.1 million-acre expansion that will increase protection to this vulnerable coastline — stay tuned!

TOP: GUILLERMO OSSA / SHUTTERSTOCK; **BOTTOM LEFT:** BRITTANY O / SHUTTERSTOCK; **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** IAN SCOTT / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtle

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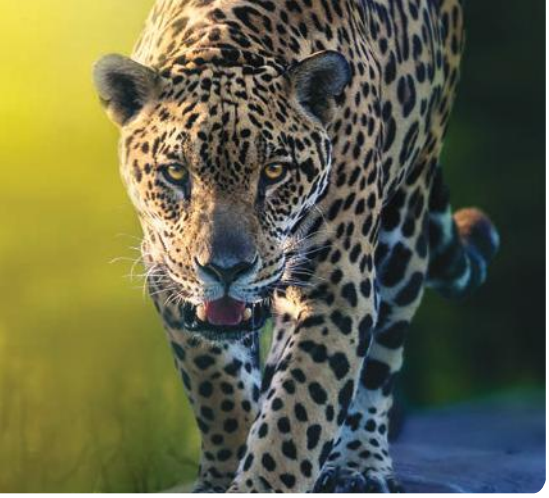

DONATE NOW TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE!

Introducing the RAINFOREST CLIMATE ACTION FUND: Fighting climate change by protecting the world's most important tropical forests

In the midst of the worsening climate crisis, tropical deforestation is once again on the rise. In 2020 alone, the world lost over 30.1 million acres of tropical forest – an area larger than the state of Pennsylvania. That's nearly an acre per second.

This rampant destruction dumped into our atmosphere 2.64 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide, more than double all annual vehicle emissions in the USA.

This Earth Day, Rainforest Trust is launching our new **RAINFOREST CLIMATE ACTION FUND.**

This will support Rainforest Trust projects that protect tropical forests which cost-effectively store and sequester vast quantities of carbon. Donating to this fund may be the most efficient way to fight climate change right now, while also saving biodiversity.

With your support, we will work to permanently lock up 15 billion tons of carbon by 2025.

We'd like to thank our founding donors to the Rainforest Climate Action Fund for offering a $170,000 match in celebration of Earth Day: **Bruce and Jian Irish, Docusign, Jefferies LLC, and Gerald, Keith, Rosemary and Julia Bradley.**

Healthy Forests. Healthy Planet.

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UPPER LEFT: MARTA MIRANDA / SHUTTERSTOCK; **RIGHT:** MARCOS OSORIO / SHUTTERSTOCK