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Conservation Action Fund: The Americas

The Rainforest Trust Conservation Action Fund (CAF) supports urgent conservation action when and where it is needed most in tropical regions around the world. CAF allows Rainforest Trust and our local partners to secure and protect critical habitats that would otherwise be lost to development, agriculture or natural resources extraction. This report focuses

on our work in the Americas where we have recently safeguarded 144,831 acres thanks in part to your generous support.

In this issue, we feature current projects in Guatemala, Peru and Ecuador, and will preview new projects being launched in Brazil, Ecuador and—for the first time—Cuba.



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Featured Projects



Brazil | **Protecting the Cherry-throated Tanager**

The Cherry-throated Tanager (CR), with its black mask and bright red throat, is one of the rarest and most stunningly beautiful birds found anywhere on Earth. Thought to be extinct, this species was rediscovered in a small area of the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest in 1998. Rainforest Trust and our Brazilian partner, Instituto Marcos Daniel, **secured 705 acres of primary forest** here to create a protected area and save the last population of Cherry-throated Tanager



from extinction. Other threatened species here include the Buffy-headed Marmoset (CR), Golden-tailed Parrotlet (VU) and the Channel-billed Toucan (VU).

Above: Cherry-throated Tanager by Gustavo Magnago & Buffy-headed Marmoset by GTW/Shutterstock



Peru | **Securing the Cornerstone of the Andes in Peru**



The Tropical Andes are home to threatened species including Trueb's Cochran Frog (CR), Andean Cat (EN) and the Geoffroy's Woolly Monkey (EN). Rainforest Trust and our local partner, Pronaturaleza Peru, **secured 136,699 acres** here in this region rich in biodiversity, but severely threatened by habitat destruction. With only 25% of the area still intact, the acquisition of these acres was a vitally important step and bridged the gap between Manu National Park and Amarakaeri Communal Reserve, **protecting nearly 6 million acres** in the Peruvian Andes.

Above: Geoffroy's Woolly Monkey by Laranik & Andean Cat by Jim Anderson



Ecuador | **Dracula Orchid Reserve**

Over the years, Rainforest Trust and our local partner, Fundación EcoMinga, have protected Chocó-Tumbes forest with a series of ten projects focused on expanding and **securing this biodiverse area between the Andes and the Pacific in northwestern Ecuador**. Our most recent project added 671 acres and will sustain the low-elevation forest in the Dracula Reserve. Threatened by deforestation, smuggling and illegal commercial orchid collecting, life can now safely continue here. Threatened species found in this area include the Carachi Andes Toad (EN) and the Brown-headed Spider Monkey (EN). In addition to many rare birds, the reserve is a trove of new orchid species, including the *Dracula terborchii*.



Above: Pristimantis by Juan Pablo Reyes & Brown-headed Spider Monkey by Michael Moens

What's Next



Liguus vittatus

Atlantic Forest

Location: Brazil

Goal: purchase 6,882 acres

The Atlantic Forest once covered 1.5 million square miles along the coast of Brazil. With less than 10% of this rainforest remaining today, Rainforest Trust and our long-time partner, Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), will work to purchase an additional 6,882 acres of this vulnerable land over the next five years. This expansion is part of the ongoing commitment made by Rainforest Trust in 2015 when the first of 13 projects began here. **The Southern Woolly Spider Monkey (CR), one of South America's largest and rarest New World primates, makes its home here.**

Valley of Orchids

Location: Ecuador

Goal: secure 1,885 acres

In Ecuador, Rainforest Trust and our partner, Fundación EcoMinga will work to secure 1,885 acres of forests with exceptional biodiversity. These new acres will expand on those already protected in the Anzu-Zunac environment and enable us to create an uninterrupted corridor for hundreds of species. Here, we will monitor large mammals like the Mountain Tapir (EN). **Rare orchids growing here are vulnerable to extinction, like the endemic *Masdevallia stiggii*, and are not found anywhere else in the world.**

Protecting Coastal Forest

Location: Cuba

Goal: protect 22,574 acres

The coastal forest of the Cananovas reserve is the only remaining habitat of the *Polymita sulphurosa* (CR), one of the world's most brilliantly colored land snails. Together with our local partner WCS, Rainforest Trust has the opportunity to protect 22,574 acres of coastal forest in Cuba and create the new Cananovas Habitat/Species Management Area. **Securing this land will fill a critical gap—connecting to the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park.** Many threatened species, including the Smalltooth Sawfish (CR), Gundlach's Hawk (EN) and Grey-headed Quail-dove (VU) will be safeguarded.



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