



Save High-Andean Forest and Páramo in Colombia

The high-mountain forest and páramo region of southwestern Colombia lies at the intersection of three of the most extraordinary biogeographical areas in the world: the Amazon Basin, the northern Andes and the Chocó rainforest along the Pacific coast.

It is estimated that more than half of the world's páramos are located in Colombia. They are incredibly important as biodiversity hotspots with a high number of endemic species that have adapted to specific conditions. Páramos regulate water flow and store large amounts of carbon in the soil. They hold high spiritual and cultural value to Indigenous Peoples.

Severe damage to these exceptional páramo and forest ecosystems is resulting from unsustainable deforestation and destruction from agricultural expansion, indiscriminate use of natural forest resources, land use conflicts, mining and charcoal production. Although páramos are protected by law in Colombia, these illegal activities continue. Once gone, the ecosystems' benefits to human communities and rare species will be gone forever.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Fundación Suyusama, seek \$906,496 to support the creation of the 40,110-acre Cerro Negro Regional Natural Park by working with both farming communities and Indigenous "resguardos"—a legal designation in Colombia that protects the ancestral territories and cultural and political autonomy of Indigenous communities.

SAVE VULNERABLE SPECIES FROM DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

The abundant biodiversity of the Cerro Negro region includes threatened mammals, birds, plants and amphibians like the Endangered North Shore Marsupial Frog. The Vulnerable Masked Mountain Tanager is considered among the rarest mountain tanagers in the northern Andes and the populations found here are the largest documented in Colombia to date. The area is also important for Yellow-billed Pintail and Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan. It provides important habitat for Endangered Mountain Tapir, Vulnerable Andean Bear, Vulnerable Dwarf Red Brocket and Culpeo, a species of South American fox.

Regional Natural Park status will strengthen legal protections on the ground to halt illegal encroachment for agriculture, cattle grazing and extractive activities like mining.



40,110
ACRES

\$906,496
PROJECT COST

\$22.60
COST PER ACRE

9,886,671 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Mountain Tapir (EN),
Pristimantis huicundo (EN),
North Shore Marsupial Frog (EN),
Masked Mountain Tanager (VU),
Dwarf Red Brocket (VU)



SUPPORT INDIGENOUS RESGUARDOS TO PROTECT THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS

Although the area of the proposed park overlaps with several Indigenous territories and some is owned by private landowners, most of the private owners do not live in the area or carry out productive activities, and the Indigenous communities mostly access the site for religious purposes.

Extensive engagement and participatory planning will take place with the three Indigenous Resguardos having land tenure rights in the area of the proposed Cerro Negro Regional Natural Park.

These stakeholders will participate in developing management agreements where Indigenous groups are guaranteed permanent access to their sacred sites, and farming families in the buffer area receive training and support to implement agroforestry practices that align with the conservation goals of the project. Members of these communities have expressed support for the project, and the desire to protect their sacred sites from outside destruction.



Páramos and high Andean forest within the project landscape © Fundación Suyusama

