



Omiltemi Minute Salamander
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White-throated Jay © Ryan Shaw-NC

Prevent Extinctions in the Mountains of Southern Mexico

The blending of temperate and tropical in the remote Sierra Madre del Sur mountain range of southern Mexico is truly remarkable. Extending about 620 miles along the southwestern coast, mid-to-upper elevation forests feature a canopy of trees like oaks, ashes, elms, sweet gums and even dogwoods. Beneath the towering giants, a tropical understory thrives with flowering shrubs and plants that support threatened, endemic species—frogs, salamanders, birds, mammals—whose populations are found only here.

Despite the exceptional biodiversity and high levels of endemism found in these mountains, only about 0.1% of this territory in Mexico's state of Guerrero is protected to keep forests safe from the threats of commercial-scale logging, mining and cattle grazing. This puts at risk the species whose entire populations are found only in a small portion of the mountain range—their last known refuge—including six critically endangered salamanders, four endangered frogs, and at least two rare mice.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, the Integral Wildlife Laboratory of the Autonomous University of Guerrero seek \$347,081 to support work to conserve an estimated 57,260 acres of land. The majority of the land consists of seven areas that belong to the local communities and are operated as ejidos—areas of communally-managed land. They will be officially certified by the Mexican government as "Areas Voluntarily Designated for Conservation" or ADVCs and will be sustainably managed. One additional area will be established as the 4,900-acre Omiltemi State Reserve.

SAVE THE ONLY HOME FOR A DIVERSITY OF RARE SPECIES IN MEXICO

The cloud forests and tropical deciduous forests that support rare species in these mountains are two of the most threatened ecosystems in the world. Unfortunately, they are not yet well protected in Mexico. All of the lands targeted for conservation in this project are considered high priority for global biodiversity conservation. They overlap with two large areas known as Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites, having been identified as the last remaining location of one or more Endangered or Critically Endangered species. Along with the rare species already documented here, further study may reveal even more species threatened with extinction in this landscape.



57,260
ACRES

\$347,081
PROJECT COST

\$6.06
COST PER ACRE

5,235,082 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Teztepec Salamander (CR),
Imperial Salamander (CR),
Green-flecked Salamander (CR),
Omiltemi Minute Salamander (EN),
White throated Jay (VU)

