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Western Chimpanzees
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New National Park for Chimpanzees and Pygmy Hippos in Liberia

Chimpanzees may be humans' closest relatives, but we have driven them to the brink of extinction. In southern Liberia, the country's second-largest known population of Critically Endangered Western Chimpanzee survives in the Kwa Proposed Protected Area, a largely pristine, highly biodiverse forest that is a "hotspot within a hotspot:" the Upper Guinean Forest. The area is essential to the survival of many other rare species, including Pygmy Hippopotamus (EN) and Slender-snouted Crocodile (CR). And many signs indicate that the area is also important for the African Forest Elephant (CR) in Liberia, and in West Africa as a whole.

Hunting for the commercial bushmeat trade threatens these rare species to such a degree that they are all at local risk of extinction. Forest elephants are targeted for both ivory and bushmeat. Western Chimpanzee babies are frequently traded as pets. All three pangolin species found in Liberia—Black-bellied, White-bellied and Giant Pangolin—are hunted for cross-border trade of pangolin scales to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, seek \$3,326,982 to **create the 550,000-acre Kwa National Park, a fully designated and sustainably managed national park.**

SAFEGUARD OLD-GROWTH AND PRIMARY FORESTS IN LIBERIA

The Kwa Proposed Protected Area has approximately 90% of undisturbed, old-growth and primary forest remaining. But recently, there has been an increase in the amount of habitat degraded or destroyed in the surrounding areas. In the absence of legal protection for the proposed protected area, logging companies—which are already operating full-steam in surrounding areas—and gold mining interests will cut into the forest, leading to significant losses of habitat and biodiversity, and increased exploitation of wildlife. New settlements and roads will further degrade the landscape.

It is urgent that we secure the gazettelement of these properties for



Giant Pangolin © Maggy Meyer - Shutterstock



550,000
ACRES

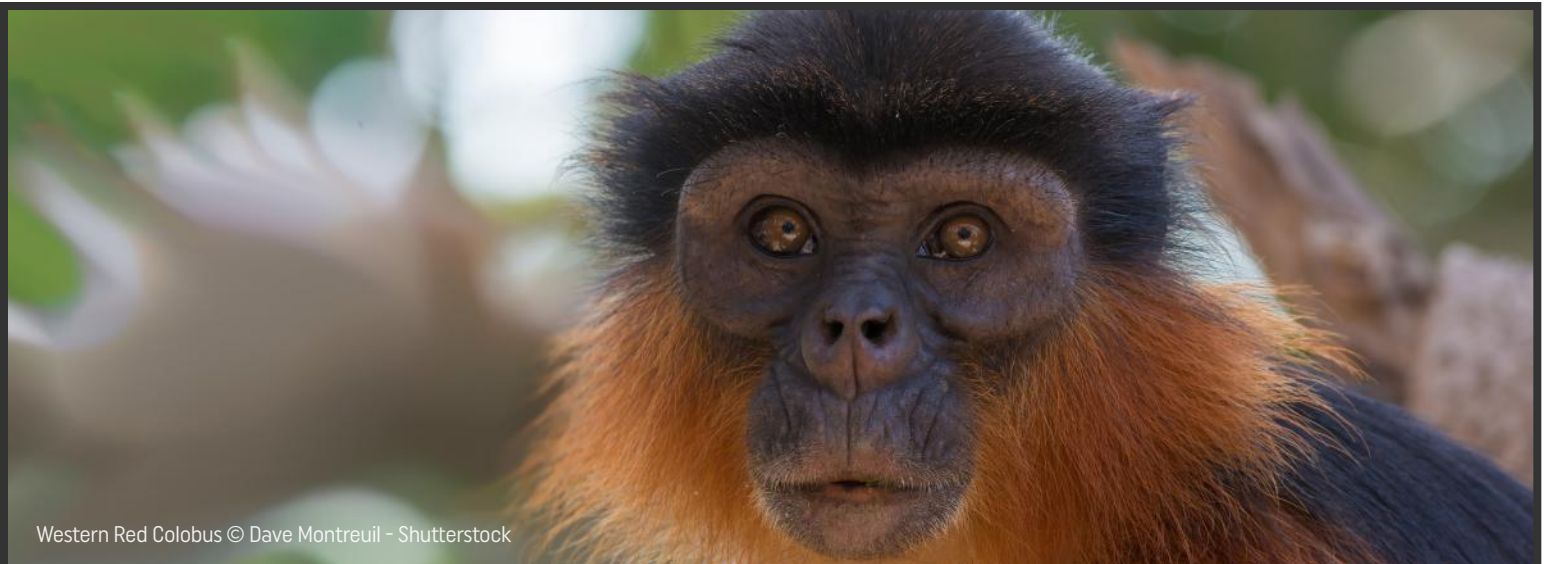
\$3,326,982
PROJECT COST

\$6.05
COST PER ACRE

120,510,366 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Western Chimpanzee (CR),
African Forest Elephant (CR),
Slender-snouted Crocodile (CR),
Pygmy Hippopotamus (EN)



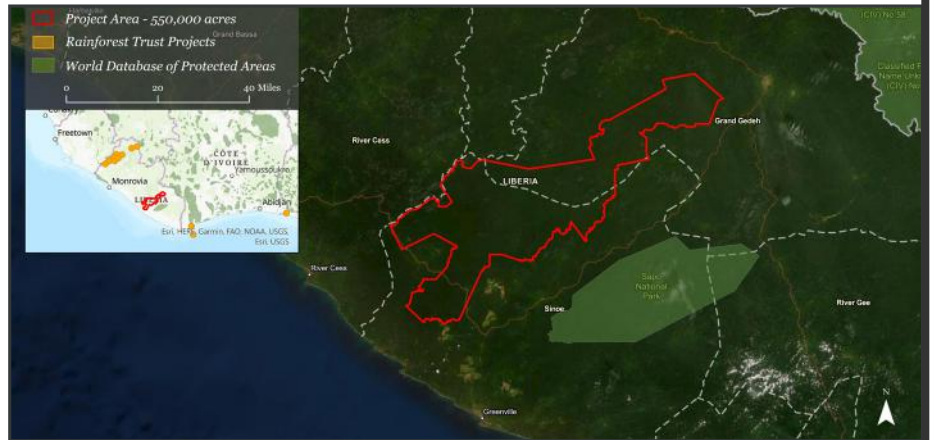
Western Red Colobus © Dave Montreuil - Shutterstock

resident chimpanzees, hippos and elephants, as well as for other rare species like Jentink's Duiker (EN), Western Red Colobus (EN), Liberian Mongoose (VU) and Giant Pangolin (EN).

CREATE A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR LASTING IMPACT

The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation is deeply committed to ensuring the full involvement of local community members in all stages of the gazettement process.

The relentless pursuit of the rich natural resources of the Kwa Proposed Protected Area is a menace to all life within. We must lose no time in securing the area safe from logging, mining, encroachment, and the poaching and other illegal activities that will accelerate should commercial interests prevail.



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