

Black-and-Chestnut Eagle © Jeremaix



Azaras's Capuchin © Reiseграфich

Safeguard Critical Gap in Protection for Jaguars and Giant Anteaters in Argentina

A spectacular region of transitional moist and dry forests known as the Southern Andean Yungas stretches from the flanks of the Andes mountains in Argentina to the great Amazon basin to the east. The Yungas and Atlantic forests of Argentina are home to nearly half the biodiversity in the country. And yet, this region of Argentina has a shockingly low level of protection, with only around 8% safeguarded to date and half of the Yungas forests here already destroyed by logging, agriculture and development.

Two large parks in this biodiversity hotspot provide a significant part of existing protection: Baritú National Park and Laguna Pintascayo Provincial Park. They shelter numerous threatened species like the Endangered Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Vulnerable Giant Anteater and Azaras's Capuchin as well as endangered endemic frogs and freshwater fish. However, a critical gap in protection between these two parks has been identified.

Rainforest Trust seeks \$1,362,502 to support our partner Fundación Rewilding Argentina's purchase of 11,990 acres of highly intact Yungas forest at a total cost of \$2,300,000. This will protect this critical habitat from imminent logging and cattle ranching. This strategically located property has not been surveyed for its biodiversity to date, however it has been well preserved due to its inaccessibility—an old road is now impassable and it is only reached by boat. We must prevent the reopening of the road, and the area, to exploitation.

Ultimately, the new reserve will complete a 229,538-acre core conservation area in the Yungas region. The proposed reserve is 95% primary forest and part of the largest continuous area of mountain forests in Argentina. Together with the contiguous forests of Bolivia, the entire ecosystem spans over seven million acres of critical habitat for threatened species.

PROTECT THE RUGGED YUNGAS ECOREGION AND ITS RARE SPECIES FROM EXPLOITATION

There is an urgent need to protect the Yungas and, in particular, the Parque Baritú property from impending deforestation and the ecological degradation that will inevitably follow. A timber concession was previously granted within the proposed reserve area but has not been implemented and will be revoked once the land is secured. The time is now.

The new Parque Baritú reserve combined with the two parks will safeguard a species corridor in the region for jaguars and ocelots. Outside protected areas, the Giant Anteater's population has been impacted by habitat loss, roadkills, hunting and fires. The Black-and-chestnut Eagle's global population is estimated at less than 1,000



11,990
ACRES

\$1,362,502
PROJECT COST

1,427,950 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

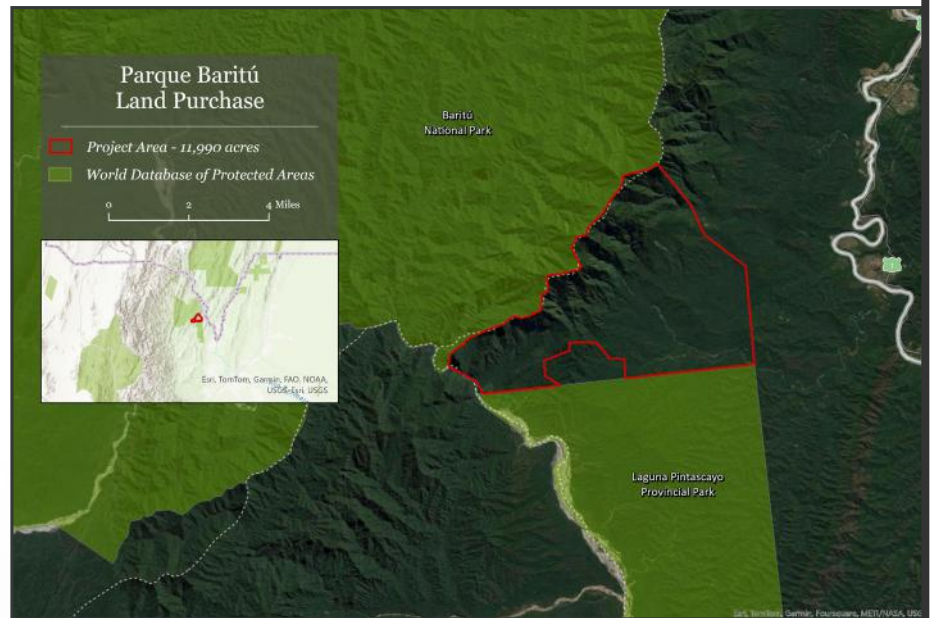
Black-and-chestnut Eagle (EN),
Giant Anteater (VU),
Azaras's Capuchin (VU),
Baritú's Marsupial Frog (EN),
Epiplatys striatula (VU), *Jenynsia
alternimaculata* (EN), *Corydoras
micracanthus* (VU),
Psalidodon endy (VU)



individuals. The property—combined with our partner’s rewilding experience in Argentina and around the world—also offers the future possibility for reintroducing locally extinct flagship species to their former habitat, like Vulnerable Spectacled Bear, Three-toed Sloth, and Military Macaw. Strategically located along the Bermejo River corridor, this site under exceptional stewardship will act as both a refuge and source of wildlife to the greater landscape and surrounding parks.

BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION

Although no communities currently live within the proposed reserve, the region is under great pressure from outsiders to be logged. This project will support surrounding local communities to establish an economy based on nature tourism, to build local support for the long-term conservation of these vulnerable forests.



The landscape of Jujuy province in the Southern Andean Yungas © Martin Silva Cosentino

