



Telmatobius verrucosus © José M. Padial



Andean Condor © Ammit Jack

Protect Rare Amphibians in the Tropical Andes

Stretching along the western edge of South America, the Tropical Andes exist where the Andes mountain chain meets the Amazon biome, resulting in a biodiversity hotspot like no other. The varying elevation of the terrain creates pockets of unique habitat that supports an astounding diversity of life and a high degree of endemism.

In Bolivia, the Tropical Andes touch the southwestern edge of the Amazon biome. Madidi National Park in the northern department of La Paz is said to be Earth's most biologically diverse protected area for terrestrial mammals, birds, butterflies and plants. Within its cloud forests, lowland rainforests, network of rivers, streams and wetlands, scientists estimate there to be over 11,000 species in the park alone, not counting insects.

Mining is the greatest threat in this region, but there is also the looming prospect of oil and gas exploration and extraction. Without protection, this exceptionally intact area could very soon be degraded and destroyed by extraction industries.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Conservation International Bolivia, seek \$1,834,158 to protect 340,500 acres of diverse habitat that includes areas of tropical Andes, Yungas (humid rainforest in steep terrain) and Central Andean Wet Puna (a landscape of valleys and plateaus, high lakes, mountain grasslands and snow-capped peaks). The areas will be protected as Natural Areas of Integrated Management under Bolivian municipal law and will become part of the Plurinational System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems in Bolivia, contributing to a vast conservation corridor.

SAVE RARE AMPHIBIANS FROM LOSING THEIR ONLY HOME

With many species being restricted to a distinct elevation and range, this area is particularly important for rare endemic amphibians. The project would protect the only known population of a Critically Endangered Andean frog (*Microkayla ankohuma*) previously thought to be extinct, as well as significant populations of two other critically endangered frogs (*Telmatobius bolivianus* and *Telmatobius verrucosus*).

Biological surveys will be done to confirm the presence of rare amphibians, with a high probability that more species new to science will be uncovered.



340,500
ACRES

\$1,834,158
PROJECT COST

\$5.39
COST PER ACRE

53,094,603 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

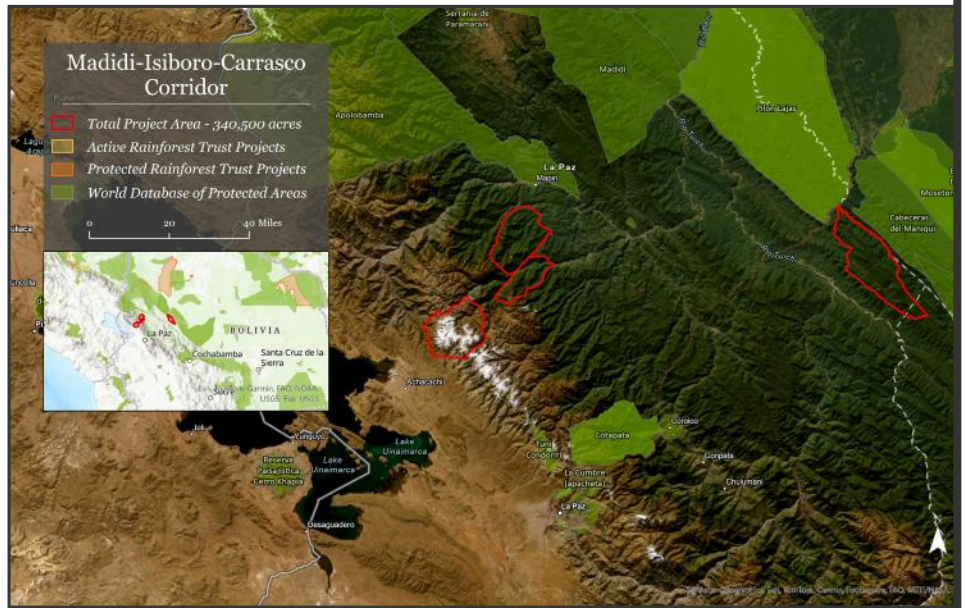
Microkayla ankohuma (CR),
Telmatobius bolivianus (CR),
Telmatobius verrucosus (CR),
Allobates mediarmidi (CR),
Yungas Tyrannulet (VU)



INCREASE THE REACH OF CONSERVATION IN THE TROPICAL ANDES

The proposed project will expand a conservation mosaic of over 10 million acres safeguarding the eastern slope of the Andes in Bolivia that includes Madidi National Park, Carrasco National Park, Isiboro Securé National Park and Indigenous Territory, Apolobamba National Natural Integrated Mgmt Area, and Cotapata National Park and Integrated Management Natural Area.

The Yungas Tyrannulet, a small flycatcher whose population is vulnerable due to habitat loss, lives in the upper canopy of evergreens in the Andean foothills and lower montane forests. Also found in this landscape are the Black-and-white Chestnut Eagle and the Andean Condor, birds of prey whose populations are struggling due to historical overhunting and diminished habitat.



COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITIES

Our partner will work in collaboration with local municipalities, communities and other affected parties to define the area to be protected and the types of restrictions to be implemented. To further solidify social support for the protected areas, Conservation Agreements with communities are being pursued, aimed at fostering the adoption of sustainable livelihoods in communities within the areas. These sustainable livelihood initiatives include ecotourism, agroforestry systems, and sustainable agriculture, among others.

A pristine creek within the project landscape, courtesy the partner/Gabriela Villanueva

