



## Hold the Line Against Agribusiness in the Bolivian Amazon

The Amazon is one of the most important biodiverse regions on Earth, and about 8% of it stretches into eastern Bolivia, covering the entire department (state) of Pando. Over 92% of this area—about 14.3 million acres—is still forested. Currently, conserved areas protect only about 20% of Pando, one being the 1.84-million-acre Manuripi Heath Amazonian National Wildlife Reserve with a border running along the Madre de Dios River.

An astoundingly intact expanse of Amazon rainforest to the northeast of Manuripi, also partly defined by the river, is in urgent need of protection. The area is home to threatened Amazon River Dolphin, Giant Otter, White-lipped Peccary, Lowland Tapir, and Black-faced Black Spider Monkey. The forests are an essential resource for traditionalist communities living here who rely heavily on them for their survival and livelihoods, harvesting Brazil nuts and Acai berries.

Bolivia had the second-highest rate of primary forest loss in 2023 (after Brazil) of all the Amazon countries and deforestation in Bolivia is increasing. The dense rainforest in this project is a prime target for industrial agriculture, which would transform the forest into lucrative cattle pastures and soy farms to feed the cattle—mirroring the tragic fate that has befallen neighboring areas in Brazil. Thus, this eastern portion of Pando close to the Brazil border is a high priority for conservation.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Conservación Amazónica, seek \$3,319,081 to support the establishment of four Municipal Protected Areas totaling 2 million acres in Pando. The project will thus secure protection for a large area of highly biodiverse Amazon rainforest and safeguard the area for local communities' sustainable Brazil nut and Acai livelihoods.

### REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT THROUGH CONSERVATION

Giant Otter, Amazon River Dolphin and Jaguar are particularly vulnerable to habitat degradation, and they suffer hunting pressure due to human-wildlife conflicts. The Departmental Alliance for Jaguar Conservation has been created to strengthen a corridor between jaguar conservation units in Pando to diminish human-wildlife conflicts.

The Black-faced Black Spider Monkey's populations are now reduced to habitat in the western Amazon. Vulnerable bird species recorded in the proposed protected area include Blue-headed Macaw, Green-thighed Parrot, and Harpy's Eagle.



**2,000,000**  
ACRES

**\$3,319,081**  
PROJECT COST

**\$1.66**  
COST PER ACRE

**445,245,095** mT  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

### KEY SPECIES:

Amazon River Dolphin (EN),  
Giant Otter (EN),  
Black-faced Black  
Spider Monkey (EN),  
White-lipped Peccary (VU),  
Lowland Tapir (VU),  
Spix's White-fronted Capuchin (VU),  
Blue-headed Macaw (VU)

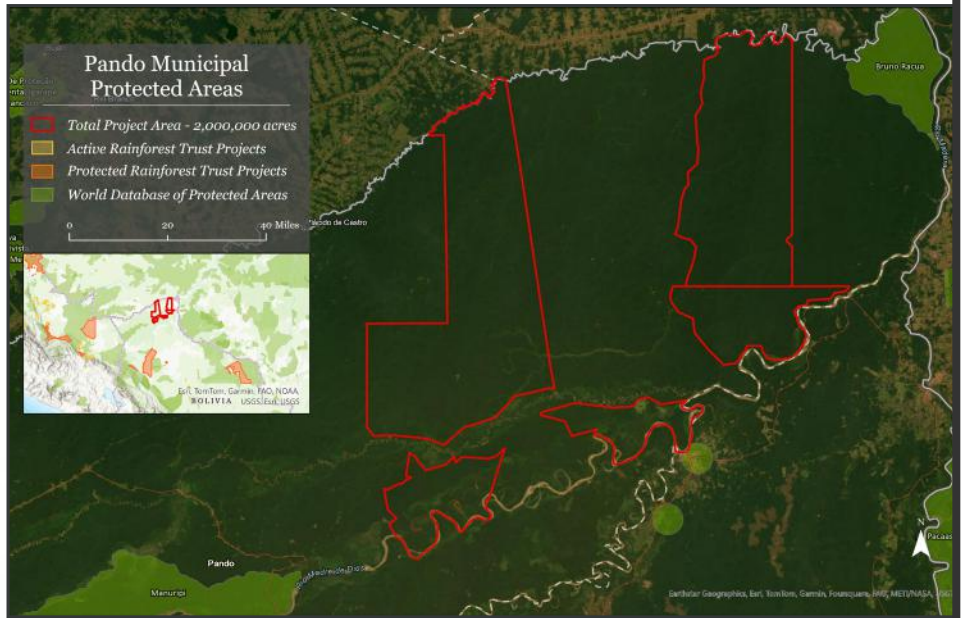




## SAVE INTACT BOLIVIAN AMAZON RAINFOREST FOR WILDLIFE AND LIVELIHOODS

Bolivia is the largest producer and exporter of Brazil nuts in the world, and the second-largest producer of acai berries in South America. These forest products can only grow in healthy, mature forests like those in Pando, not plantations, so establishing formal municipal protected areas will enable the sustainable harvests to continue—which provide about 80% of family income in Pando. The project will honor the fact that, historically, communities have kept these areas intact for the benefit of all living things.

Biodiversity baseline surveys will be conducted via this project, as will a socio-economic analysis of the rural communities living within the territories. The protected areas will be linked to the network of formal conservation areas in Pando, which will generate capacity for ongoing management of the four municipal protected areas, reducing threats and improving the quality of life of Indigenous and peasant families. Activities such as fishing, hunting, or timber extraction will be subject to regulation as determined by participatory planning processes.



Giant Otters, by Zaruba Ondreja

