



Update: Rainforest Climate Action Fund

The Rainforest Climate Action Fund (RCAF) enables our donors to maximize their impact in the fight against climate change by supporting projects that sequester large amounts of carbon. Our goal is to permanently lock up 15 billion metric tons of CO₂ equivalents by 2025 by expanding or establishing new protection for vulnerable rainforests, peat swamps and mangroves across the tropics.

Your support makes a tangible difference around the world. Within this report, we share updates from a select few RCAF projects and we look forward to many more shared triumphs for conservation in the future.



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Because of You, We Can Accomplish Great Things



Since 2021, our Rainforest Climate Action Fund has supported **27 projects** worldwide.



Stored 581,171,571 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents, comparable to **129 million vehicles** driven for one year.



Protected **3,716,535 acres** of rainforest, peat swamp and mangrove habitat.



With your help, an **additional 14,756,076 acres** will soon be protected.



(Top) The majestic Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the highest coastal snow-capped mountain in the world. Sunrise view from the Palomino River and the beach of the same name. It is a coastal town in the department of La Guajira in Colombia. The Sierra Nevada can be seen from three departments in Colombia: Magdalena, La Guajira, Cesar. | Raul Gutierrez; (Bottom) Indigenous Community | RKMA

Colombia | Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Park Expanded

Protected: 426,154 acres

Carbon Equivalent: 14.3M vehicles driven for one year

The dramatic snow-capped peaks of the highest coastal range in the tropics descend nearly 19,000 feet to the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea below in Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, considered one of the most irreplaceable ecosystems on Earth. Its high-integrity forests are a refuge for hundreds of endemic, migratory and endangered species. For thousands of years, this biodiversity hotspot has been inhabited by Indigenous communities that hold a deep spiritual and cultural connection to the land and play a significant role in its conservation.

With the support of Rainforest Climate Action Fund supporters like yourself, Rainforest Trust and our partner, Resguardo Kogui Malayo Arhuaco, were able to protect 426,154 acres of Indigenous territories, expanding the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Park. The area stores 64,403,818 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents and is now benefitting from the highest level of environmental protection possible in Colombia. The newly protected lands will be co-managed with the Park to further safeguard its wide valleys, primordial forests and crystal-clean rivers from exploitation.



Democratic Republic of Congo | Congo's Rainforest Receives Vital Designation

Protected: 122,776 acres

Carbon Equivalent: 3.2B gallons of gasoline consumed

The dense tropical rainforest of the eastern Congo plays a vital role in mitigating climate change by storing large amounts of carbon and is one of the last strongholds for the world's most threatened primate species, the Critically Endangered Grauer's Gorilla. Unfortunately, 80% of this biodiverse forest remains unprotected and deforestation continues to accelerate year over year.

For the last decade, Rainforest Trust and our partners have been focused on fortifying a 493-mile-long corridor in this region. Thanks to the support of donors like you and our partner, Flora & Fauna International, the Kanyama Community Forest protected area has been officially designated. Your support in preserving this vital rainforest has safeguarded 122,776 threatened acres, locked up 28.6 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents, and secured long-term protection for the Grauer's Gorilla and other vulnerable species in the region.



(Top) Mountain Landscape | FFI; (Bottom) Grauer's Gorilla | Angeliqne Todd

Republic of the Congo | Wildlife Protected in Central Africa's Batéké Plateau

Protected: 861,642 acres

Carbon Equivalent:

114.9B pounds of coal burned

Formed over millions of years, the Batéké Plateau is a vast landscape of forest and grasslands that spans three countries in Central Africa. This unique ecosystem is a wilderness of rolling savannas, complex river networks and large tracts of dense rainforest that spread across ancient sand dunes. Lions, wild dogs, spotted hyenas and leopards once roamed this vast landscape, but today all of these species are in decline as the remaining habitat suffers from degradation and poaching threatens their lives.

Here, with your help, Rainforest Trust and our partner Panthera have successfully protected 861,642 acres by creating the Ogooué-Lékéti National Park. This park directly connects with the Batéké Plateau National Park for a total of 1,451,290 protected acres, contributing to a 1.8-million-acre park. Your generosity has also helped store 102,649,175 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents and train park rangers to defend the area from further exploitation.

Lion Cubs | Ajay Kumar Singh



URGENT PROJECT

Liberia | Support the Creation of Krahn-Bassa National Park

Working to Protect: 550,000 acres

Carbon Equivalent: 134.9B pounds of coal burned

Considered some of the oldest and most pristine forests in Africa, towering trees, dense vegetation and high levels of rainfall define the tropical rainforests of the Upper Guinean Forest in Liberia. Rich in medicinal plants used by the local communities for centuries, this biodiversity hotspot is also essential to the survival of many rare species, including the Critically Endangered African Forest Elephant and Western Chimpanzee.

At the heart of this region is the 550,000-acre Krahn-Bassa Proposed Protected Area, which has approximately 90% of undisturbed, old-growth and primary forest remaining. Rainforest Trust and our partner, The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, are working to create the Krahn-Bassa National Park, a fully designated and sustainably managed national park that will store 120,510,366 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents and safeguard this vital habitat from the increasing deforestation that plagues surrounding areas.

African Forest Elephant | Roger de la Harpe



Mangroves | Manguezais da Região

URGENT PROJECT

Brazil | Preserve The Amazon's Coastal Gem

Working to Protect: 175,000 acres

Carbon Equivalent:

Annual emissions of Sweden

One of the world's largest and most well-conserved mangrove belts stretches along the coastline of Brazil where the Amazon River pours into the Atlantic Ocean. The vast estuary holds 80% of Brazil's mangroves and is home to at least 40 globally threatened species. Despite other protections in place for this estuary, however, a serious and significant gap has left mangroves vulnerable.

Rainforest Trust and our local partner, RARE Brazil, are working to safeguard 175,000 acres of unprotected mangroves and coastal waters through government designation of two new sustainable-use reserves and the expansion of an existing reserve. Nearly 3,500 acres have already been protected. Once complete, this project will protect a unique refuge for marine and coastal species facing extinction and its intact mangroves will lock up nearly 40 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents.



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