



rainforest rescue

supporter news *no. 16*

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ceo's mission beach report

Bob Irwin is a passionate conservationist who loves Australia's wildlife and is definitely the real deal. He founded the Beerwah Reptile Park in the '70's, which has today become the Australia Zoo, and worked with his son Steve, to catch and relocate crocodiles involved in conflict with humans. During his time in Far North Queensland, Bob came across all sorts of wildlife, and of particular interest to him was the Southern Cassowary.

Last November, I invited Bob to travel with me to Mission Beach in Far North Queensland to investigate first-hand the crisis occurring for the endangered cassowary. The community at Mission Beach have been struggling for more than a decade against speculative housing development, which is consuming vital cassowary habitat. Visiting with Bob seemed like the least we could do to assist and bring attention to the issue. Subdivisions have created over 1,300 house blocks on what was previously cassowary habitat – and developers seem intent on knocking down more rainforest. It's estimated that only 1,000 of these big birds remain in all of Australia, yet development has destroyed habitat and increased traffic has resulted in 59 cassowaries being killed at Mission Beach over the last 15 years.

During our visit, we were lucky to see a cassowary in the wild, which was filmed for an edition of ABC TV's Australian Story and will feature Bob Irwin. We were otherwise kept busy with TV news, radio and newspaper interviews all interested in our message of the urgent need for cassowary habitat conservation. The following week, the ABC's 7.30 Report produced a story on the cassowary crisis at Mission Beach.

Our trip ended with a visit to C4 (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation) whose members were delighted that we'd been able to bring such focused media attention to town. C4 have been working at a local level for 15 years to hold back the impact of development on the endangered cassowary. Rainforest Rescue has now begun helping C4 to raise funds for a buyback of rainforest land to prevent it being developed. While there will be some way to go, so far they've raised \$85,000 and are now planning for a future for Mission Beach that includes protected rainforest for their cassowary friends.

Cassowary habitat in Far North Queensland certainly needs our help as do the rainforests in other parts of Australia and around the world. This past year we've purchased and protected a 12th property in the Daintree rainforest and have planted another 9,000 trees to restore cassowary habitat. We've been actively supporting projects in places as diverse as Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Ecuador.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest newsletter which details our efforts over the past year to protect rainforests forever.



Kelvin Davies
CEO, Rainforest Rescue

More information about Kelvin and the rest of Rainforest Rescue team can be found on our website, www.rainforestrescue.org.au.

12th daintree property purchased and protected

On the 10th of May 2010, Rainforest Rescue celebrated the purchase of Lot 10 Milky Pine Road in the Daintree rainforest in Far North Queensland. This is the twelfth property we've purchased through our Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project. Thanks to our supporters this precious rainforest block is now protected forever from the impact of rural residential development.

Rainforest Rescue chose to purchase this specific property because the block and surrounding area has been classified as essential habitat for the endangered cassowary by the Queensland Government under the *Vegetation Management Act of 1999*. It is estimated that only 1,000 cassowaries remain in the wild so it's essential that all of the remaining habitat is protected. Rainforest Rescue volunteer Alan Sheather undertook a survey on the newly purchased property and six threatened plant species were identified, including Noah's Walnut and the Black Palm.

Most Australians strongly believe the Daintree rainforest should be protected and not developed for housing, which has been demonstrated by the hundreds of people who donated to the purchase of this latest property. In fact we had such a wonderful response from donors that we exceeded our target and the additional funds will be used for the deposit on our next property. We are working on identifying that property now so please visit our website for the details.

Many people are surprised to find the Daintree is not fully protected, especially as the Daintree lowland rainforest is an Australian icon that provides habitat for 120 threatened species of plants and animals.

While the Daintree National Park and World Heritage Area were declared in 1988, two-thirds of the Daintree lowlands were excluded from protection as they had previously been subdivided for rural residential development, creating 1,100 privately owned blocks. Building houses in the Daintree creates clearings and fragments the rainforest, and settlement brings exotic plants that become environmental weeds and dogs that kill wildlife. While there has, in the past, been government funding to buy back the Daintree, today 185 properties still remain at risk of development.

Rainforest Rescue is committed to continuing our program until we've bought back every privately owned property that we can, rescuing the Daintree rainforest forever.

Naot Australia have joined Rainforest Rescue in a partnership to save the Daintree rainforest. For every pair of Naot Green footwear sold in Australia and New Zealand, \$5 is donated to the Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project, saving one square metre of the Daintree rainforest. The Naot Green collection is designed to cater to customers in search of ethical, eco-friendly and comfortable footwear. Naot Green uppers are made from vegetable dyed leathers, with soles made from sustainably grown natural rubber and innersoles from sustainably grown natural latex and cork. In addition all shoes in the range are stitched by hand, avoiding the use of chemical glues and electricity.



lot 10 milky pine road adjoins a private nature reserve, which then backs on to the daintree national park and world heritage area



"I know Australians don't want our own 'Big Bird' to become extinct. 40% of the remaining Cassowary habitat at Mission Beach is unprotected and residential housing subdivisions are eating up the rainforest." Bob Irwin



new nature refuge declared

The properties saved through the Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project have the highest level of protection. Rainforest Rescue seeks to have each Daintree property we purchase 'protected forever' by having them gazetted as Nature Refuges. This involves negotiations between Rainforest Rescue and the Queensland State Government on how the land will be managed. A written agreement, which is binding on the title, removes all future development rights from the land. The agreement is then presented in the Queensland Parliament and the property is gazetted as a Nature Refuge through the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.



Rainforest Rescue purchased Lot 22 Camelot Close at Cape Tribulation in April 2007 and shortly after we began the process of having the property declared a Nature Refuge. This involved stating that we wanted 100% of the property to be protected for nature conservation. We then prepared a list of the species found on the property, which included 24 species of ferns and an amazing 185 species of flowering plants (trees & shrubs). We also decided to ask the kuku yalanji people of the Daintree to give the property a name and they chose 'kulki anga', which means 'Cape Tribulation home for wildlife' — perfect. After all this work, the kulki anga Nature Refuge was finally declared in November 2009. This precious part of Australia is now protected forever.

Our other Nature Refuges include the *Baralba Corridor* – which was also named by the kuku yalanji and means 'wildlife track' – made up of five adjacent properties in Cow Bay, and the *Rainforest Rescue Nature Refuge* comprising of two adjacent properties located in Forest Creek.

the recently declared kulki anga nature refuge joins our other legally protected areas in the daintree



new daintree rainforest plant nursery

Rainforest Rescue now has its own plant nursery in the Daintree rainforest. The nursery was established by the Daintree Cassowary Care Group more than a decade ago and was gifted to Rainforest Rescue in February 2010. In the past two years we have had to collect seeds locally and have trees grown for us by contractors. With our own nursery we can now propagate and grow seed into rainforest trees for our Plant a Rainforest Project in the Daintree, as well as supporting the tree planting efforts of other landholders. With volunteer help and the savings gained by growing our own trees, Rainforest Rescue is excited at the prospect of being able to revegetate degraded Daintree properties at a reduced cost.

Until now, the nursery has been growing on average 6,000 plants a year and we now aim to increase production. Rainforest Rescue's Daintree Rainforest Plant Nursery is located on land inside the Daintree National Park. We have employed a part-time Nursery Coordinator to manage the nursery and the involvement of volunteers. The volunteers from the local community meet every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00 and 5.00 pm to propagate and care for seedlings. If you live in the Daintree or you are visiting please come and join us at Lot 98, Cape Tribulation Road, Diwan.

We thank the Daintree Cassowary Care Group for the gift of the nursery infrastructure and materials, and for the faith shown in Rainforest Rescue to continue their good work in the Daintree.



our newly acquired rainforest plant nursery promises a more reliable supply for daintree plantings at reduced costs

sponsored trees in the daintree

The Daintree Plant a Rainforest Project has achieved enormous success this year with the planting of an additional 9,000 trees.

Most of the trees were planted in the Daintree National Park, where we filled in many of the gaps in the rainforest that had been made by clearing that occurred prior to the land being included in the National Park. Due to the proliferation of rank grass and dense Asian Brambles, these areas were unusable as habitat for native species or plants and animals.

The plantings took place from February to May as this is also the wet season and the trees are guaranteed to get a good start. It was coordinated by our Daintree Conservation Manager, David Cook, who worked with Daintree locals and Conservation Volunteers Australia to establish the trees. The conditions were sometimes tough as beating sun followed heavy rain, but everyone worked tirelessly, Monday to Friday, for two weeks each month, to get the trees into the ground. The planting culminated in a Community Tree Planting Event on Sunday the 9th of May, where the final trees were planted.

We have been planting trees in the Daintree for the past three years. The trees are a wide mix of local rainforest species and were propagated from seeds collected from the Daintree rainforest. It has been great to watch the trees grow, knowing that they are creating habitat for species such as the endangered cassowary, the primitive Musky Rat-kangaroo, the rare Bennett's Tree-kangaroo, and the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll. Tree growth is incredibly fast in the Daintree with many of those we planted twelve months ago now four to five metres high.

All of the trees were sponsored by individuals and businesses from around Australia and internationally. You can sponsor the planting of a tree by purchasing our Plant a Rainforest Gift Cards. Each card recognises the number of trees you are sponsoring. Your trees will help restore the natural environment of the Daintree rainforest. They will also be absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and helping to reduce climate change.



weather conditions can be challenging, but trees planted in the daintree can grow up to several metres high in just a few years; those shown immediately above were planted just 18 months before



Plant a Rainforest Gift Cards are available from our website www.rainforestrescue.org.au, or by calling 1300 763 611.



northern nsw

Rainforest Rescue is based in the little town of Mullumbimby in northern New South Wales. As well as focusing on national and international projects, we've also had a long held commitment to looking after our own backyard.

Between 1860 and 1900, most of the lowland subtropical rainforest of northern NSW was cleared for agriculture and today less than 1% remains. For over a decade, Rainforest Rescue has been restoring the rainforest in the region through planting trees and by actively supporting natural regeneration processes.

So far, we have planted over 100,000 trees in this area. In the past year, we have been employing our local indigenous bush regeneration team, who are part of the Madhima Gulgan Community Association. They do a fantastic job preparing planting sites, removing weeds, planting rainforest trees and making sure they thrive through regular maintenance. The tree planting sites are chosen specifically to enhance existing rainforest remnants and to provide links and corridors for wildlife.

An example of our work is the planting of 1,100 trees at Juggler's Foot organic farm in Goonengerry. Owners, Bill and Liz approached us last year at the local Farmers' Market in Bangalow, where they sell produce and flowers, to ask whether we could help them to replant the rainforest that was once on their land. We agreed, with the planting of 800 trees last year and 300 this year. We aim to continue until all the cleared, unusable areas have been returned to rainforest.

We work with natural bush regeneration techniques and methods, whereby the trees are planted 1.5 metres apart to form a canopy which encompasses pioneer species, secondary species, and mature phase species. The pioneer species cycle nutrients, are tough and resilient, and don't take long to grow a canopy to block out the light. They create a great microclimate for the secondary and mature species to grow. Bob is pleased with the results, but warns, "Don't take on more that you can maintain." He brush cuts the weeds that grow around the newly planted trees about four times a year, which is an organic form of weed control.

Another example of our work in the area is the contribution of 1,000 trees to the Bilambil Creek. We have done this to assist with the connectivity of lowland subtropical rainforest remnants within the Tweed Valley. What was formerly a narrow or absent strip of riparian vegetation has now been increased in width, providing improved connectivity between rainforest remnants. Doing this is important for threatened species such as the Black Bittern, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Grey-headed Flying-fox, Little Bentwing-bat and Large-footed Myotis, which depend on this habitat for survival.

In addition, we have been continuing our support of the Big Scrub Landcare group. The Big Scrub was once the largest expanse of subtropical rainforest in Australia, extending over 75,000 hectares between Byron Bay, Ballina and Lismore. It is still the most diverse ecosystem in New South Wales today, supporting 28 threatened species of flora and 22 threatened species of fauna.

Rainforest Rescue has contributed over \$100,000 to the group for the employment of professional bush regenerators to remove weeds, such as the Madeira Vine, Privet and Cat's Claw, which threaten the Big Scrub. By removing weeds, the health of the rainforest vegetation can be restored, facilitating natural regeneration of native species.

Because the remnants are small, they will always need follow-up care, so ongoing funding is essential in order to continue this important project.

research to the rescue

A small number of individual philanthropists who recognise the benefits of scientific understanding to rainforest conservation are supporting our Research to the Rescue Project, which began in 2002. Robert Kooyman, a leading forest ecologist and botanist has been heading the project, and working hard to pinpoint Australia's most promising opportunities to learn, discover and explore the inner workings of rainforest plants, animals and threatened ecosystems.

Robert's objective is to improve our understanding of rainforest communities both in Australia and worldwide. His extensive research this year is aimed specifically at developing a better understanding of the history of our rainforests and climate variation through time.

Unlocking the secrets of past climate change gives an insight into how species and rainforest communities were affected by climate change and what this could mean in today's context. Understanding the evolutionary history and current day ecology of rainforests is vital if we are to protect rainforests forever.

In light of this, Robert spent the month of February in South America, exploring the ancient forest connections between Australia and South America, when both land masses were part of one land mass, known as Gondwana.

As well as participating in the Southern Connections Congress in Bariloche, Argentina, he also travelled with research scientists from the Royal Botanic Gardens of Sydney to undertake botanical collections in Patagonia. He met up with US prehistoric plant specialist Peter Wilf to discuss Patagonian plant fossils, and visited colleagues at the Museum of Natural History in Buenos Aires to discuss the geographical distribution of plants and animals. Robert, Peter Wilf and a colleague from the Macquarie University will host a working group in July, bringing together key research scientists from around the world to explore the evolution of the Gondwanan rainforests through the Gondwanan rainforest fossil record.

Robert has recently completed a large-scale genetic leaf sample collection, which means the size and shape of 2,500 specimens from rainforest tree species has been recorded. Now, Robert aims to use cutting-edge genetic tools to explore important evolutionary and ecological questions about the rainforest in regards to community ecology, community assembly, and historic and potential species responses to climatic variations.

Robert intends to expand this research into the rainforests of Far North Queensland and Papua New Guinea. Results will include the development of 'tools' to improve our understanding of rainforest communities both in Australia and worldwide. Such information supports Rainforest Rescue's endeavours to protect and manage rainforest for the future.

The results of Robert's research continue to be published in international peer reviewed journals such as the Journal of Ecology. Rainforest Rescue is proud of our contribution to this ongoing research as we believe that having a better understanding of rainforests can only lead to better protection of these magnificent and diverse ecosystems.

Special thanks to 'Tree Friends' for your invaluable support of this project.



a historical understanding of rainforest ecology through scientific research helps to protect rainforests forever

weed control and the revegetation techniques employed take advantage of the rainforest's natural ability to regenerate



orangutan habitat under threat

Rainforest Rescue is working with the Orangutan Information Centre, based in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, to help conserve the habitat of the Sumatran orangutans in Gunung Leuser National Park.

The Sumatran orangutan is listed as critically endangered, which means it is close to becoming extinct in the wild. Their numbers have declined by approximately 91 per cent since 1900, with most of that decrease taking place in the last few decades. Now, there are only an estimated 6,624 of these amazing animals left, found in just a handful of areas in Sumatra. 6,074 of the remaining Sumatran orangutans – and the most viable populations – live in the Gunung Leuser National Park and surrounding Leuser forests.

Gunung Leuser National Park is a rich, complex environment with a delicately balanced network of animal and plant life. It is the core of many endangered and critically endangered species' remaining habitats, including the Sumatran tiger, Sumatran rhinoceros, Sumatran elephant, as well as the Sumatran orangutan. Its unique flora and fauna also need urgent conservation and protection.

Our Orangutan Habitat for Survival Project supports the local people to rehabilitate illegally cleared rainforest in this national park and protect it from further encroachment. This involves removing 500 hectares of oil palms that were planted illegally by a private oil palm company within the park, nursery care, planting and maintaining new rainforest trees, and patrolling the forest to protect it.

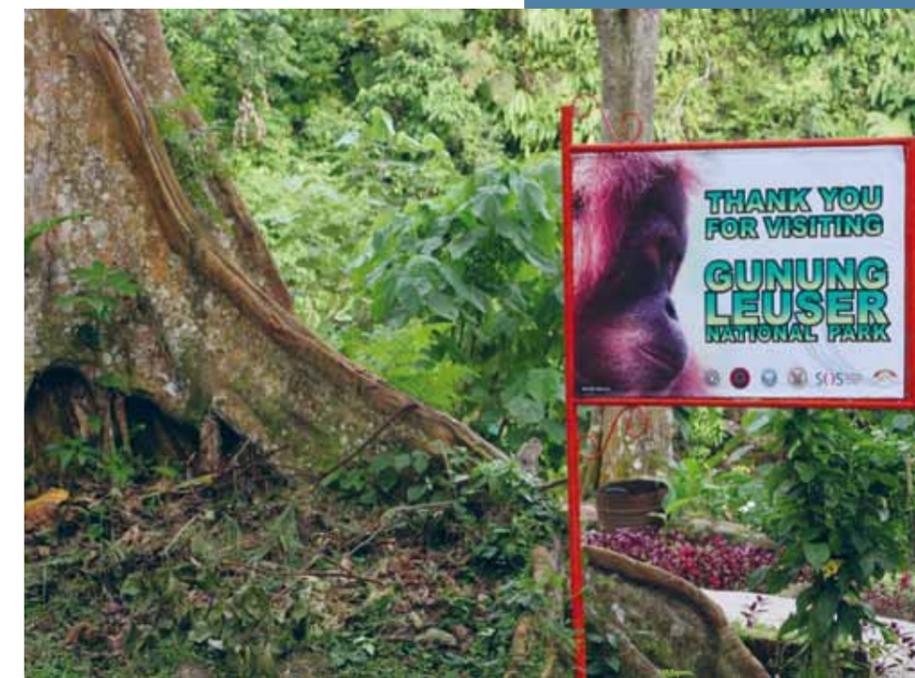
In the past year, we have helped facilitate natural regeneration of the rainforest by planting 35,000 trees over 35 hectares in the Gunung Leuser National Park. In the coming year, as well as replanting at least 15,000 trees on 15 hectares of the cleared land, we will be employing local people to cut down the final 70 hectares of oil palms and to patrol the area to stop illegal activities from reoccurring. Providing long-term opportunities for local people to work in rainforest conservation or ecotourism is an essential part of any rainforest and orangutan conservation program.

This is a very successful project and thanks to our supporters, this critical habitat will be saved.



local people are being employed to cut down illegally planted oil palms and replace them with locally grown rainforest plants

the gunung leuser national park encompasses a wide range of ecosystems vital to the survival of a vast array of critically endangered species





wpu's safeguard bukit tigapuluh national park

Bukit Tigapuluh National Park in Sumatra is threatened by illegal logging and clearing. In association with the Australian Orangutan Project, Rainforest Rescue is providing funding to support Wildlife Protection Units to deter illegal logging, poaching and other wildlife crimes in the park. Nowadays, they also undertake important monitoring projects that enable conservationists and others to plan how best to protect the fragile environment for the future.

Each Wildlife Protection Unit consists of one NGO Patrol Leader (usually a forestry or nature conservation specialist), a Forest Police Officer and two staff recruited from the local communities. This rather unlikely partnership between the Indonesian Government, NGO and the local community has proven to be the most effective means of wildlife and habitat protection. It really works!

It also provides local men with alternative employment to the palm oil plantations – which of course is usually the major reason why the rainforest is cleared in the first place.

The units are an effective and cost efficient deterrent. But they do require regular training and rehearsals to increase their skills and performance and they require equipment and vehicles to help them in their work. Each unit of four men and equipment costs approximately Au\$27,000 per year to run. It isn't a lot in Australian terms to do such an important job but, nevertheless, the money still has to be raised – which is why the program is so important.



palm oil — destroying the rainforest & the orangutan

The exploding development of palm oil is the single biggest threat to rainforests and orangutans in Indonesia. Oil palm conglomerates cut down and burn the rainforest. They use every inch of land to plant oil palms and, if they can, they will plant them inside national parks as well.

The seeds of the oil palm are used to produce palm oil. One hectare of oil palms can produce two tonnes of palm oil every month. This oil is used in biofuels, soaps, toothpaste, chocolate, biscuits, muesli and cosmetics, and is growing in demand every day. To a local resident with minimal income options, the opportunities presented by palm oil companies are attractive.

In addition, rainforests around the world are disappearing at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, Indonesia is one of the countries leading in the deforestation of rainforests. Deforestation is one of the major contributors to the increase in greenhouse gases. In the tropics and subtropics, it is causing approximately 20 per cent of all climate change.

If we don't win the fight against deforestation, we can't win the fight against climate change.



orangutan adventure trek

In March 2010, 13 Rainforest Rescue supporters travelled to the Gunung Leuser National Park in north Sumatra to participate in Rainforest Rescue's Orangutan Adventure Trek. The trek was no ordinary holiday; it was the culmination of months of fundraising aimed at saving precious orangutan habitat.

Over 10 days, the group trekked through the dense rainforest, saw orangutans, macaques and elephants, and met the children at a local school. They then headed north to visit the oil palm plantations that have devastated the once pristine rainforest. Trekker Carolyn Barry, recounts, "The contrast between virgin jungle and recently logged area is absolutely stark and more than a little confronting."

The journey finished with a trip to the northern part of the park where reforestation efforts are underway. They visited the rainforest restoration program which is run by the Orangutan Information Centre and supported by Rainforest Rescue. This is one of the projects the trekkers' fundraising efforts are supporting.

Of the 2010 trek, Leree Roden said, "It was a privilege to see the rainforests, the orangutans and the restoration project and to feel we made a difference."

The participants on the 2010 Orangutan Adventure Trek raised a significant \$40,000 for our Orangutan Habitat for Survival Project. Thank you! Those funds are now achieving great things in North Sumatra.

join us in 2011

Can you imagine yourself going on an adventure to protect the rainforests, save the orangutan and change the world?

The 2010 Orangutan Adventure Trek was so successful that we have decided to do it again in 2011. We are looking for 20 people to join us in March 2011 for an adventure of a lifetime. As an Orangutan Adventure Trek participant you will be helping to raise the funds needed to ensure the preservation of the Sumatran Orangutan and its rainforest home. Funds will also directly empower the communities living alongside the rainforest to be an integral part of its rehabilitation and importantly ensure that any further deforestation is avoided.

FAST FACTS :

Dates: Saturday 5th March to Wednesday 16th March 2011

Duration: 12 days

Duration of trek: 5 days

Difficulty: Moderate to challenging

Fundraising target: \$6000 (this includes your trip costs)

Registration fee: \$700

Download an information pack for the Orangutan Adventure Trek at www.inspiredadventures.com.au/orangutanadventuretrek or phone Tristanne on 02 9262 9880.



an exciting and eye-opening experience was had by all who participated in the inaugural orangutan adventure trek

join us in 2011!



wild sumatra — way kambas national park

Although 80% of Sumatra's ancient rainforest has been destroyed, the remaining rainforest is home to a vast array of incredible wildlife including Sumatran tigers, Sumatran elephants, Sumatran rhinoceroses, sun bears, tapirs and six species of monkey. With rainforest continuing to be cleared and degraded, Rainforest Rescue has partnered with Save Indonesian Endangered Species to protect and restore this essential rainforest habitat. Focusing on the Way Kambas National Park in southern Sumatra we are tackling the problems of encroachment of the national park boundaries for farming, as well as logging, clearing, burning, poaching and other illegal activities.

We are currently establishing a plant nursery on the border of the park, and are excited that the initial stages of site preparation were completed in May 2010. The nursery will grow endemic tree species and provide employment for local people in plant propagation and reforestation. The trees will be used to revegetate a 300 hectare site in the Bungur section. Community development will include education in nursery skills and tree planting as well as conservation principles. It is anticipated that having ongoing contact with the local people and providing a means for a sustainable income will influence them in a positive way to want to protect their park assets. The first trees are expected to be planted in the wet season at the end of 2010.

As part of the revegetation program, we are funding park rangers to manage the revegetated areas and park police to patrol them, creating a presence that will deter illegal activities. Rainforest Rescue is also providing funds to establish regular patrols into the remote regions of the park, with particular focus on the nesting sites of the critically endangered White-winged Wood Duck. Park staff member Diki Tri Sutanto said, "Where there is positive activity in the park then illegal activity ceases!"

Save Indonesian Endangered Species is also working to close down abandoned wells and cesspits left in the national park after around 4,500 households were relocated to outside the borders when the park was created in 1984. With some pits as deep as six metres, they are a fatal trap for animals such as tigers, deer, rhinos and baby elephants, and they will die a slow and agonising death if they are not rescued. Thousands of these wells have now been permanently closed down by the conservation team of local people employed on this project – and a tree is planted where the deadly trap once was.

Claire Oelrichs, founder of Save Indonesian Endangered Species reports, "So far, we have closed 2,500 wells. We now are finding the remaining wells harder to find, so there may be less and they are spread out, but the good news is there have been no reported elephants found in wells this year. The workers used to hear them calling and would rescue them, but that seems to have stopped."

If you would like to join Rainforest Rescue and Claire Oelrichs on a wildlife and wilderness safari in Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra, visit www.rainforestrescue.org.au/events or phone (02) 6684 4360 for more details.

tackling the problems that threaten a range of unique and endangered rainforest wildlife in sumatra's way kambas national park

pacuare reserve, costa rica

This project in Costa Rica was established by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, a UK based charity. Over the last two years, Rainforest Rescue has contributed to the purchase and protection of 1,000 hectares of coastal rainforest at the Pacuare Reserve, which was founded to protect and study the magnificent turtles that nest in the area. This rainforest buffer is stopping encroaching banana plantations from impacting on the nesting grounds of three species of sea turtles (Hawksbill, Leatherback and Green). The rainforest and the turtle nesting grounds are now managed for conservation with 2009 being the best nesting season in the history of the reserve. Over 1,160 turtles nested – this figure is double the amount from just a few years ago.

Now that the land has been purchased, a permanent research station has been established at the reserve to ensure the protection of the endangered turtles, over 210 bird species and 27 mammals, including the rare Agami Heron and the Ocelot. The location chosen for the new facilities is very beautiful and every day families of white face and howler monkeys can be seen. This year the silky ant eater and the manatee, both very rare species, have been seen in the area, and a monitoring programme on the manatee is soon to begin.

During the turtle season, which is February to September, the project employs 12 to 15 local people who provide support for the volunteers that patrol the beaches to protect the nests from illegal poaching. All of this ensures the long-term success of a proven and highly effective conservation project which has been running for over 20 years. Additionally, environmental education of young people is an important part of the reserve's function. Approximately 700 schoolchildren, both Costa Rican and North-American, visited Pacuare reserve in the past twelve months to learn about the forest and to participate in the beach patrols.

nicaragua's seeds for life

This year, Rainforest Rescue funded the planting of 5,000 trees as part of the Limay Community Carbon Project, in northern Nicaragua. This community-based reforestation project involves over 20 different small-scale farming families who are planting native trees within a critical watershed that feeds one of the country's most important estuaries, the Estero Real.

Rainforest Rescue decided to support the Limay Community Carbon Project because it recognises the critical role people play within their own ecosystem and provides opportunities for peoples' livelihoods to be integrated with a sustainable land use management system. In this way, a long lasting synergy between people and their environment is created, ensuring protection of this vital ecosystem in which they live.

The majority of the population of Limay relies on sustenance farming to make ends meet. This requires clearing rainforest land to grow beans and corn. This inevitably leads to loss of soil fertility – and the land is given over to grazing cattle, causing further degradation. Once the land can no longer sustain cattle, it is abandoned and a new area is cleared. In addition, the entire community collects fuel-wood from the forest for cooking, causing further forest degradation.

Earlier this year, extensive mapping was carried out to identify the appropriate areas that could be reforested and to ensure that the reforestation activities do not conflict with the community's reliance on farmland. Each family participating in the project plants fast growing nitrogen-fixing species to fertilise the soil and also provide an early source of fuel-wood for cooking. In between these trees, the families plant medium and slower growing species to form the permanent canopy. As the trees grow, the ecological services that they provide are sold on the voluntary carbon market to provide a well needed source of income for the participating families.



1000 hectares of purchased coastal rainforest is protecting turtles and their offspring from the effects of encroaching agriculture

community-based projects recognise the critical role people play within their own ecosystem





ecuador inhabitants enjoy a growing corridor

The Ecuador Save a Hectare Project is making steady progress. In the last 12 months two strategic purchases totalling 312 hectares have been achieved, further expanding the Neblina Reserve to a total current size of 1312 hectares. The reserve has also recently been declared an official Protected Forest in the Ecuadorian national reserve system.

The project is implemented by Rainforest Concern, a UK based organisation and their staff member Fiona Perez, who is based in Quito, Ecuador. They have recruited and trained a group of local forest guards, known as Guardabosques Flor de Mayo, that are now regularly patrolling the area to protect it against poaching and illegal logging.

The Neblina Reserve, the name of which means ‘misty’, forms part of the southern phase of the Choco-Andean Corridor in north-west Ecuador. It links the corridor between the Paso Alto area and the private reserves further north.

Once this southern phase of the corridor is complete, there will be a continuous rainforest link between the western slopes of the Andes, near Quito, with the lowland forests of the Choco region, which extend northwest to the coast and across the border to Colombia.

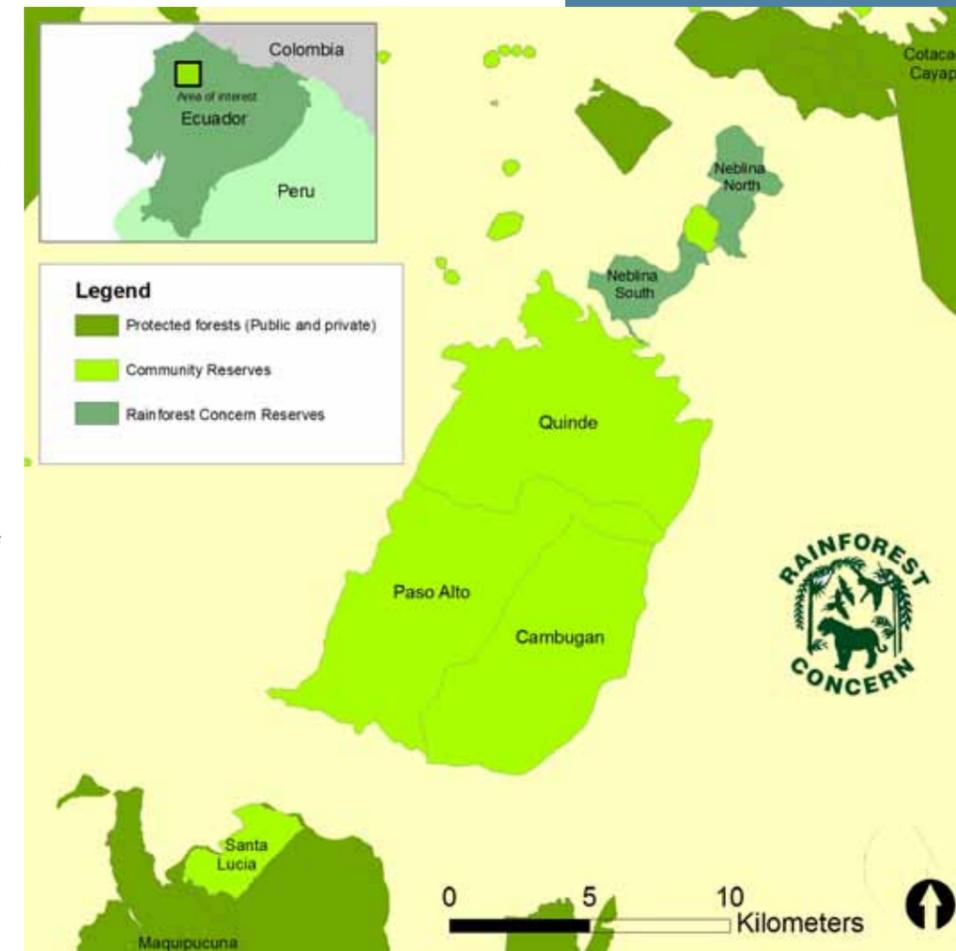
The breathtakingly rich and complex Choco-Andean Corridor is one of the world’s top five ‘biodiversity hotspots’ and is home to over 800 species of birds — about 10% of the earth’s birds — as well as over 8,000 different plant species, including 458 listed under different degrees of endangerment in the Red Book of the IUCN.

We are delighted to report that sightings of Spectacled Bears in recently purchased areas are increasing, with 17 individuals, including juveniles, sighted during August to October 2009. These amazing bears need a huge area to live and move around in, therefore depend on these protected rainforest corridors for their survival.

This year, funds will be directed towards training young people of the Nanegal and Marianitas communities to protect their cloud forests through eco-tourism and conservation activities. Plans are also underway for a further four land purchases adjacent to the Neblina Reserve, one of which will provide a connection to the Catacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve and Paramo region, vital for the connectivity of the Choco-Andean Corridor and its inhabitant species.



the elusive spectacled bear is just one of the incredible range of beautiful and unique species in the neblina reserve





ride for the rainforest

What does it take to cycle 8,811 kilometres, through 18 countries, from London to the Himalayas? Krista Bernard and Dan Coward found out when they set out from London on the 1st of June 2008, and made the entire journey without flying. They aimed to bring attention to climate change and the solutions offered by Rainforest Rescue through their rainforest protection programs worldwide.

At the same time, Krista and Dan raised much needed funds for rainforest conservation by directing donors to Rainforest Rescue.

Summing up the trip, Krista provides some stats and superlatives:

Total distance cycled: 8,811 kilometres

Biggest day: 195 kilometres, 9 hours 40 mins in the saddle

Top speed: 73.2 km/h

Highest pass: Khunjerab Pass, Pakistan, 4733 metres

Longest downhill: 89kms from Khunjerab to Sust, Pakistan

Punctures: 11 (including five blowouts)

Bike repairs: 2 freehubs, 1 front hub, rim of back wheel, broken chain, 3 rear gear cables

Longest border crossing: China, they have a 3-hour lunch break and we arrived as it began!

Most lovable local hat: The Kalpak, found all over Kyrgyzstan and proudly modelled on the left by Dan, who was given it by Abdulrahim, the first friend we made in Kyrgyzstan.

Total time taken: 10 months cycling + 5 months waiting out winter in Istanbul + 9 months trip planning = 2 years!

Krista is not new to adventure cycling. In the early '90s, she cycled down the East Coast of Australia, across the Nullarbor, through the Central Desert and around Tasmania. She has also cycled in the mountains of Morocco and Tunisia. In 2000, she was presented with the Australian Geographic Society Young Adventurer of the Year Award for cycling solo from Indonesia to Egypt, a journey of 15,000 kms across 19 countries.

Now Krista and Dan are planning another fundraising cycling adventure for Rainforest Rescue, and they want you to join them. In February 2011, they will take 20 people on a 'Ride for the Rainforest' across the beautiful island of Sri Lanka. The route is a lot easier than Krista and Dan's last cycle, at only 12 days and 300 kilometres, and promises to be especially beautiful, inspiring and achievable by anyone with a reasonable level of fitness.

As well as cycling through the stunning rainforests of Sri Lanka and seeing amazing temples, villages and national parks, you will visit our tree planting sites, plant trees yourself with the locals and contribute toward the protection of this vital ecosystem. Your efforts will be rewarded when you finish in the World Heritage listed city of Galle, with time to relax on the beach, swim or surf.

Download an information pack from www.inspiredadventures.com.au/ride4therainforest.

Challenge yourself on an exhilarating bike ride across the beautiful island of Sri Lanka as you join global cycling fundraiser Krista Bernard.

See first-hand the awesome achievements of Rainforest Rescue as they work to protect the rainforests in Sri Lanka through tree planting, community engagement and education. Visit magnificent rainforests and significant sites, plant trees and contribute toward the protection of this vital ecosystem.

Supported by *FitnessFirst*



For more information call Tristanne on 02 9262 9880 or email: tristanne@inspiredadventures.com.au

www.inspiredadventures.com.au/ride4therainforest

rescuers unite for sri lanka

Rainforest Rescue has been supporting partner organisation Rainforest Rescue International for three years in a united effort to save Sri Lanka's precious rainforests. Julia Henkl reports.

The Gin Ganga River takes a winding 100 kilometre journey from the rainforest covered hills, east to the village of Baddegama on Sri Lanka's south coast. 200 years ago, this entire area would have been covered in rainforest, today less than 5% remains. Our project aims to employ local people to plant trees and create a rainforest corridor between Sinharaja Forest Reserve and the nearby Kanneliya forest and to reduce the pressures on these important remnant rainforests.

In 2008, at the Baddegama Restoration site, thousands of rainforest trees were planted on an old degraded tea plantation and are now reaching a 'maintenance free stage'. A careful planting arrangement of 35 species, replicating the structure of a well-established rainforest has produced a young but viable rainforest. Alongside this growing rainforest is the Baddegama Rainforest Nursery, where over 20,000 plants from 90 different species are now cultivated. Stock from this nursery provides trees for other important rainforest restoration projects at nearby Ambelagedara and Karunadasa.

The work in Baddegama has seen a transformation of the lands from a monoculture estate into the beginnings of a lush rainforest, which is very exciting. Equally exciting is the response from the local community, who are learning to value and appreciate rainforests through their own involvement as well as the education programs supported by Rainforest Rescue. Although none of the staff had any knowledge of rainforest species before working with us, they now proudly point out to visitors the botanical names for the surrounding trees, their uses, their importance, and how to look after them.

The remaining rainforests in Sri Lanka are a source of plants that people use for food, fibre, building materials and firewood. For the many Sri Lankan's living on the equivalent of a few dollars a day, these are vital resources. The project is using the analog forestry method that aims to recreate a rainforest using local endemic species which are also of benefit to local people in their everyday life. As it grows, the resources in the newly created forest can be accessed, thereby reducing the pressure on the World Heritage Listed Sinharaja Forest Reserve and its precious biodiversity.

The locals have also noticed other benefits — over a cup of morning tea they discuss how they have seen many animals return to the land over the past few years as the forest cover has started to grow up. This includes wild boar, peacocks, different snake varieties, lizards and even the solitary giant squirrel, who lives mainly in the forest canopy. The return of these animals indicate a healthy ecosystem is developing on the land, something we will continue to monitor and nurture.



Locals are enjoying the benefits of a re-created rainforest in baddegama, sri lanka

Ride for the Rainforest Sri Lanka Cycle Challenge

FAST FACTS

Dates: 22nd February – 5th March 2011

Registration Fee: \$700

Fundraising Target: \$6500 (inc. trip costs)

Days: 12 Days

Days Cycling: 5 Days

Project Visit: 1 full day

Grading: Moderate

Accommodation: Hotels and comfortable camping



rainforest residents say “thank you, donors”

It's people like you who make it possible to rescue and protect our rainforests forever. And we simply couldn't do it without your help.

Whether it's protecting the rainforest, which is home to the endangered cassowaries in the Daintree rainforest, or the Sumatran orangutans in Indonesia, your gifts are essential. So on behalf of all the creatures and plants of the rainforest, thank you for everything you do.

Welcome to our new Rainforest Rescuers

Over the past year, 286 people have joined us as Rainforest Rescuers. These kind people give monthly gifts, which are automatically deducted from their credit cards or bank accounts. Thank you to all 616 Rainforest Rescuers who provide ongoing and regular income for essential rainforest projects. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you to those who have included a gift to Rainforest Rescue in their Wills

Thank you so much to the eight new supporters who have included Rainforest Rescue in their Wills. These very special gifts mean so much to us. Knowing that we have your support gives us confidence that we will be able to protect our precious rainforests well into the future.

We greatly appreciate the invaluable support of Philanthropic trusts

Your generous assistance enables us to respond effectively to the challenges of protecting and replanting rainforests in Australia and overseas. Thank you for helping us to implement new projects, employ staff, purchase and protect properties, and achieve such successful and exciting outcomes. Your invaluable support means so much to us.

Thank you to our business sponsors

We enjoy providing the opportunity for businesses to partner with us to protect rainforests forever. We would like to thank our business supporters who are either contributing a percentage of their sales to us or giving us pro-bono services and support.

Best wishes to our major donors

Your gifts make a huge difference to Rainforest Rescue, thank you! Be assured that we work hard to turn your gift into the practical action that protects rainforests forever.

Every gift you make is turned into practical action to protect the rainforest

Donors' gifts are transformed into real action, and we're seeing great results. On behalf of the creatures and plants that you help, thank you for everything you do to rescue the rainforests that they call home.

If you would like more information about becoming a Rainforest Rescuer, including a gift in your Will, or if you have any questions about our projects, please contact us on 1300 763 611 or visit www.rainforestrescue.org.au.

camerapro comp supports rainforest

CameraPro has been supporting Rainforest Rescue for the last two years. Now the company is running a competition for its customers, with all proceeds being directed to our projects. First prize in the competition is a trip to either Indonesia, on the Orangutan Adventure Trek (see page 11) or Sri Lanka, on our Ride for the Rainforest (see page 16).

The founder and director of CameraPro, Jesse Hunter, said, "For a long time, I have had a great passion for addressing environmental and social issues around the world. I believe that photography has the potential not only to raise awareness of such issues, but also serve as a platform for action on these fronts. Through our partnership with Rainforest Rescue and by running this competition, we are pleased to be able to reinforce the ties between photography, environmental and social awareness, and constructive change."

For further information about the competition, visit CameraPro's website www.CameraPro.net.au or email naturecomp@CameraPro.net.au for information to be sent out to you. As well as a great first prize, CameraPro are also giving out dozens of other exciting prizes along the way, and all entries into the competition will receive a discount voucher.

Register your interest with CameraPro today!



front cover photo courtesy of Carolyn Barry, G Magazine
inside front cover photo by Liz Gallie

Yes! I want to save our priceless rainforests by making a regular donation.

All contributions are tax deductible.

personal details:

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ADDRESS _____

CITY/SUBURB/TOWN _____ STATE _____

POSTCODE _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

i would like to give the following amount:

[] \$15 [] \$20 [] \$30 [] \$50
[] \$75 [] \$100 [] OTHER \$ _____

please tick one of the following:

[] AS AN ONGOING MONTHLY DONATION
[] AS A ONE OFF DONATION

i have a preference for my contribution to be directed to: _____

my choice of payment method is:

[] CREDIT CARD

Please debit \$ _____ from my [] Visa [] Mastercard in the 1st week of each month.

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Card No. : _____

Expiry date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

[] DIRECT DEBIT

Please debit \$ _____ from my account in the 1st week of each month.

Name of Bank, Credit Union or Building Society: _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Name: _____

BSB: _____ Account No. : _____

Please return completed form to: PO Box 40 Mullumbimby NSW 2482
For Terms and Conditions visit www.rainforestrescue.org.au/terms.html



**rainforest
rescue**
Protect Rainforests Forever

Rainforest Rescue is a registered not for profit organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient status. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

PO Box 40 Mullumbimby NSW Australia 2482. ABN: 61 086 885 154
Ph: 02 6684 4360 or 1300 763 611 **E:** info@rainforestrescue.org.au
International callers: +61 2 6684 4360 **Web:** rainforestrescue.org.au