



THE Rainforest Leaflet

EDITION 1, 2015

growing conservation results



Preserving Ecuador's Cloud Forests

SINCE 2003 RAINFOREST RESCUE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH PROJECT PARTNER, RAINFOREST CONCERN, TO SUPPORT THE PURCHASE OF CRITICALLY IMPORTANT RAINFOREST IN THE ANDEAN HIGHLANDS OF NORTHWEST ECUADOR.

Thanks to the support of our donors, our **Save a Hectare** project has now contributed towards the preservation of 1761 hectares of these extraordinary and increasingly rare high altitude rainforests.

Recently our Chair Madeleine

Faught, and partner Robert Kooyman, journeyed to Ecuador to meet with **Rainforest Concern's** staff 'on the ground', gaining first-hand knowledge of project wins for the forest. Sonja Dillman, Administrator of the Neblina Reserve, and Armando Almeida, Land Manager, spent four days with Madeleine and Robert traveling to the different locations, sharing their knowledge of, and passion for, these (now) protected forest reserves.

"Experiencing these forests and seeing their surrounding landscapes offered a stark reality to their vulnerability, highlighting the need

Looking into Neblina Reserve as the clouds descend and provide life-giving moisture that feeds this biodiversity hotspot

to protect them, says Madeleine. "Entering the Cloud Forest is like walking into a multi-coloured wonder world. Dripping with a remarkable variety of bromeliads, orchids, and mosses, the Cloud Forests are vibrant with plant species, birds and animals."

Only 2.5% of the world's rainforests are Cloud Forests, and 25% of these occur in Ecuador. Recognised as one of the world's top biodiversity hotspots, the hauntingly beautiful Cloud Forests of Ecuador deserve recognition, respect, and protection. **Thank you for helping protect this rainforest in the clouds.** ☮

The reserve is appropriately named. 'Neblina' means 'cloud' in Spanish.

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The Rainforest Leaflet is proudly printed on 100% post consumer waste recycled fibre, made with a carbon neutral manufacturing process, using vegetable based ink.



As long as you breathe you should care about leaves

The unfolding of a green leaf is a miracle of the earth. At its heart lies the secret of life itself. Each leaf is an economic unit powered by the sun. Supported by vessels that transport water and nutrients, a leaf transforms CO₂ into carbon and oxygen, makes sugars from starches, and dissolves them in water to be transported through vessels to build cellulose; and then, more leaves, stems, flowers, fruits and seeds.

Leaves are central to the survival of life on earth. From the canopy of mighty rainforest trees to the shrubs, soft herbs and grasses that feed us all, leaves are the fundamental units of production and the ultimate expression of sustainability.

As long as you breathe you should care about leaves.

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THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS, WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE THE 25TH DAINTREE PROPERTY TO PROTECT FOREVER ON 30 OCTOBER.

We were very keen to protect Lot 13 as it had only limited disturbance and the rainforest canopy was intact.

As the eighth property owned by Rainforest Rescue in the Forest Creek precinct, **Lot 13** provides the missing connection we'd been hoping for. It backs onto **Lot 16 Forest Close** (purchased in early 2014), is adjacent to two more Rainforest Rescue properties and is only 100 metres away from **Lot 15**. It also shares its southern border with the Daintree National Park, and is in close proximity to **Lots 7, 8 and 9** and to the World Heritage area.

Lot 13 is an important piece of habitat, key to the survival of unique fauna,

25th property in the Daintree is protected



like the vulnerably listed Bennett's tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*) and the endangered southern cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*). We also know that by protecting it we are protecting a number of rare, endemic plant species

including the black palm (*Normanbya normanbyi*).

Thank you for helping us to extend the Forest Creek wildlife corridor. "Donors made protecting this land possible and we are incredibly grateful," said Grant Binns Managing Director.

Protecting the Heart of the Daintree forever

late last year we launched our campaign to create a nature conservation reserve on **Lot 46 Cape Tribulation Road** in the Daintree.

Usually when we identify important rainforest needing protection we ask for your help to purchase the property, however in the case of Lot 46 we needed to act urgently to protect it.

This meant we did something we hadn't done before but believed was absolutely critical – we took out a bank loan to buy the property. This immediately saved Lot 46 from developers, however it prevents us from being able to protect it into perpetuity.

Our campaign will create a Reserve that will protect the 27.66 hectares of Lot 46, and the rainforest on it, forever.

Help us protect Lot 46 into perpetuity

What makes Lot 46 so special and worth saving?

- it is of critical importance, in terms of habitat and connectivity, for the endangered cassowary and other species
- surveys have recorded 14 rare, three endangered and two vulnerable species
- it sits at the base of the spectacular Thornton Peak, and provides an important link between the upland and lowland rainforest
- it supports an Endangered Regional Ecosystem
- two important creeks (part of the catchment area for Cooper Creek - one of the larger Daintree lowland creeks) run through it
- it contains remnant forest with ecological transitions from rainforest to swamp forest
- the western boundary is Daintree National Park/World Heritage area

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR

We bought Lot 46 in 2010 and since then have spent 1000s of hours on its restoration; we have planted nearly 37,000 trees that were grown in our Daintree nursery; and we have cleared more than 180 tonnes of rubbish.

Become a Guardian of Lot 46 and protect it into perpetuity

① 1300 763 611

✉ Reply Paid 40 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

🌐 www.rainforestrescue.org.au/ProtectLot46



The Rainforest Rescue FY2014 Annual Review is available

www.rainforestrescue.org.au/publications

The steep and rugged northwest Andean highlands (1800 – 2800 metres) create the perfect environment for Cloud Forests.

Bathed in daily moisture, these rainforests are home to an amazing 15-17% of the world's plant species and nearly 20% of its bird species. Threatened by logging, clearing (for agriculture), and mining, securing the ongoing protection of these forest areas has never been more urgent.

Since 2003, generous donations from partners like Rainforest Rescue have allowed **Rainforest Concern** to purchase areas of Cloud Forest within the remote Intag region. Intag lies between two protected areas – the Paso Alto Mountain Range and the Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve, internationally recognised for their ecological importance. The vision was to connect these two protected



Rmundo, Madeleine and Sonja explore Neblina North



Former Cloud Forest, cleared for agriculture



The almost impenetrable Cloud Forests provide an important sanctuary for a world biodiversity 'hotspot' of plants and animals

Saving hectares of biodiversity

areas through land acquisitions, creating a continuous protected Cloud Forest corridor. To date, 1761 hectares of Cloud Forest has been purchased and secured within the Neblina North and Neblina South Reserves.

A recent property purchase has added another 80 hectares, completing an all-important link between the North and South Neblina reserve areas. All of the current Neblina Reserve has been declared 'Protected Forest' in the national protected areas system.

Currently there are two more properties earmarked for purchase. One of these

(Cárdenes) is close to the reserve, and its 260 hectares are densely covered in undisturbed high conservation value forest. Nearby, a smaller property connects directly to Neblina, and is expected to be available for purchase in the near future. Hopes are very high for securing these important additions to the Neblina Reserve.

There is a degree of urgency to secure the purchase of the Cárdenes property. It recently passed down to an extended family who are eager to sell, and the property is 'attractive' to potential buyers because of its' suitability for growing a wide range of agricultural crops. This high conservation value Cloud Forest property deserves protection. ↗

Extending our expertise

We welcome Robert Rosen as Patron. As a previous Chair, Board member and Chair of the Public Fund Committee, Robert is very familiar with Rainforest Rescue and our vision.

He brings 35 years experience within a variety of environmental organisations; including Director and Treasurer of Bush Heritage Australia, Director and Chair of the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW, Director of Earth Trust, Permaculture International, Vice President of Permaculture College Australia and National Secretary of the Australian Greens.

"We are extremely pleased Robert has agreed to become Patron. His many years experience in accounting, corporate social responsibility and a range of community economic initiatives will provide valuable business acumen and contribute to our strategic decisions," said Managing Director Grant Binns.

Plant a Rainforest community tree planting



Our annual community tree planting weekend is on **23-24 May in the Daintree**.

On Saturday you'll help plant the final 2000 trees on Lot 46 Cape Tribulation Road, and on Sunday it is a mystery location on one of our properties (more information to be announced soon).

After a morning planting trees, you are invited to join a guided walking tour by our Daintree Land Manager, followed by a complimentary picnic lunch.



We can't guarantee the weather; however we can guarantee a feeling of immense satisfaction that you have helped restore more Daintree lowlands!

Plus join us for either or both days. Find out more and RSVP at www.rainforestrescue.org.au/events

New website. New opportunities. Fundraise for rainforest!

Our website has a fresh new look, is mobile responsive and, even more excitingly, has a function that means you can set up a fundraising page for Rainforest Rescue! This means it's super easy to get your family and friends to support something you are passionate about.

www.rainforestrescue.org.au/ILuvRainforest

- Ask for donations instead of gifts for weddings, birthdays, house warmings etc
- Take on a personal challenge and get sponsored to achieve your goal
- ...in fact you can create a campaign for practically any reason!

We planted our
200,000th
tree
in Australia on
**20 November
2014**



Caring for cassowary orphans



Please support the rehabilitation of these chicks so they can return to the wild

It costs \$32 to feed and care for one bird for one day.

Donate at savethecassowary.org.au/act-now/support-us

Three orphan cassowary chicks are in care at Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Recovery Centre. Rainforest Rescue manages this facility under a partnership with the Qld Department of Environment and Protection (DEHP).

Two of the chicks have been in care since 11 October when they were found wandering down a road in south Mission Beach without their father. It is believed he was killed in a dog attack.

The third chick came into care on 16 November when it was approx. one month old after being struck by a vehicle in Etty Bay. The chick was initially unable to walk, and was found to have a fractured tailbone. Under the care of EHP rangers and the Tully Vets its condition improved steadily and it is now able to walk, and has been transferred to the Centre for ongoing care.

All three chicks are steadily improving and their appetite is growing daily! It is expected they will be in care at the Centre for approximately 12 months before they can be returned to the wild.

How to ensure they maintain their wild behaviour

To ensure a successful release into the wild, it is essential that human contact be minimised during their rehabilitation process. Very young chicks may need some initial close observation to ensure they are feeding. For their safety, they also may require manual handling to secure them in an evening enclosure away from nocturnal predators (pythons etc).

Once they are past the juvenile stage, the only handling will be for veterinarian treatment. All human contact will be as brief as possible; avoiding non-essential entry to the enclosures other than for maintenance.

To ensure wild traits are maintained, fresh food is scattered in small piles in different locations throughout the enclosure and each day these locations differ. This ensures the cassowary does not become dependent on or comfortable with human contact.

These chicks represent the future of the endangered southern cassowary population

All costs associated with rearing and rehabilitating these chicks (and all birds taken into care at the Centre) is funded by Rainforest Rescue – this includes food, vet bills, carer costs and the Centre's maintenance.

I want to save our priceless rainforest

(Rainforest Rescue is a not for profit organisation, funded entirely by donations from committed people like you)



Ms / Mrs / Miss / Mr / Other _____ Name _____

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Tel (day) _____ Email _____

Please accept my gift to the rainforest \$30 \$50 \$100 My choice _____ My gift to the rainforest is Once off Monthly

Mastercard Visa Amex Card no _____ Exp _____ / _____

I enclose my cheque/money order made payable to Rainforest Rescue Signature _____

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Thank you

* Any personal information collected by Rainforest Rescue is protected by our Privacy Policy (www.rainforestrescue.org.au/privacy)

Please make your generous donation
by one of these easy methods:



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