

Opportunities in priority global conservation

Four unfunded conservation priorities

Creation of a huge indigenous reserve for uncontacted tribes in Amazonian Peru

Background: ICFC partner Amazon Conservation Association is working with Peru's Ministry of Culture to create, demarcate and protect Indigenous reserves comprising millions of hectares surrounding Manu National Park. Funds are needed to do the necessary groundwork to create an important new reserve.

Needed Actions: This process has multiple steps: technical study, working with local governments and civil society to build support and consensus, working with the Peruvian government to get approval ultimately by the cabinet and president, and then implementing a protection plan. Once created these areas enjoy complete protection from any development. Without them the last rainforest tribes that live beyond Western civilization will rapidly disappear as a result of contact with mahogany loggers, missionaries, and oil exploration crews. The rich biodiversity of these primary forests would then also be imperiled.



Cost: 3-5 year program at \$400,000 per year



Securing keystone species in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

Background: In the Osa, two national parks, biological corridors and private conservation areas hold a large expanse of viable primary and secondary forest. Keystone wildlife, however, including apex predators such as jaguar and harpy eagle, are close to local extinction because of hunting. Important prey such as white-lipped peccary are also in trouble.

Needed Actions: A holistic stewardship and protection program using modern technology (radio and drone detection technology, camera traps) coupled with training for park guards, NGO staffing, placement of control posts in key access points, and media outreach could in a few years eliminate the residual hunting culture. The rebound of wildlife would establish the long-term viability of the most important rainforest conservation location in Costa Rica. The prospective project partner is Osa Conservation.

Cost: 3-5 year program \$200,000-\$300,000 per year (total ~\$1 million)

Four unfunded conservation priorities, continued

Habitat Protection and Connectivity in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica: Preservation of the Yellow-billed Cotinga

Background: The Endangered yellow-billed cotinga (*Carpodectes antoniae*) is thought to number fewer than 1000 occupying a tiny range of 1,700 km² within the 38,000-km² South Central American Pacific slope Endemic Bird Area.



Needed Actions: Working with Osa Conservation, we will acquire private lands in the Osa Peninsula to protect and restore habitat for the yellow-billed cotinga. This will help to reconnect the three most important protected areas in the Osa (Corcovado National Park, Piedras Blancas National Park and the Terraba-Sierpe National Wetlands). Ensuring forest connectivity will be of critical importance for the future survival of the cotinga and other iconic species of the Osa Peninsula including the jaguar, tapir, and white-lipped peccary.

Cost: 5-year program at ~\$500,000 per year.



Saving the Pygmy Sloth, Panama

Background: The pygmy three-toed sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*), endemic to a single island in Panama (Escudo de Veraguas Island — less than 5 km² in size), has garnered much attention since being described as a new species in 2001. However, the survival of this Critically Endangered species continues to be threatened by habitat degradation and destruction of its mangrove habitat from timber harvesting, land conversion/development, and from collection for the exotic pet trade.

Needed Actions: For this project ICFC proposes to work with Ngäbe-Buglé indigenous people to secure the purchase of the entire island for a private nature reserve and put in place park rangers and a ranger station. This would protect the pygmy sloth and other Critically Endangered species found on the island (e.g., the fruit bat *Artibeus incommutatus*, and the worm salamander *Oedipina maritima*). Similar action has succeeded in the past in Panama in protecting vulnerable island ecosystems (e.g. Iguana Island).

Cost: Something on the order of \$300,000 for land acquisition and a similar amount implementing protection activities over several years.

Please note: Each of these proposed project ideas will require due diligence and project planning. None will happen unless a donor steps forward to finance them. Substantial but less-than-total funds would also be considered, as we might be able to produce matching funds.