

An aerial photograph of a vast tropical rainforest. The foreground is filled with dense, vibrant green trees. In the middle ground, a thick layer of white mist or low clouds hangs over the forest canopy. The background shows rolling hills and mountains, with the furthest peaks appearing in shades of blue and purple under a cloudy sky.

# Tropical nature:

*How and why we are saving it*



- The tropics holds most of the world's biodiversity and that is where nature is most under threat.
- 95% of deforestation is happening in the tropics.



- We can't reach our climate targets without ending tropical deforestation.
- If we allow degraded forests to recover, that pulls CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere on a large scale.
- Tropical forests generate rainfall over a wide geographic area, regulate water supply, and much else.

## Main drivers of deforestation



- Latin America: expansion of pasture for beef production
- SE Asia: conversion for palm oil and pulp & paper



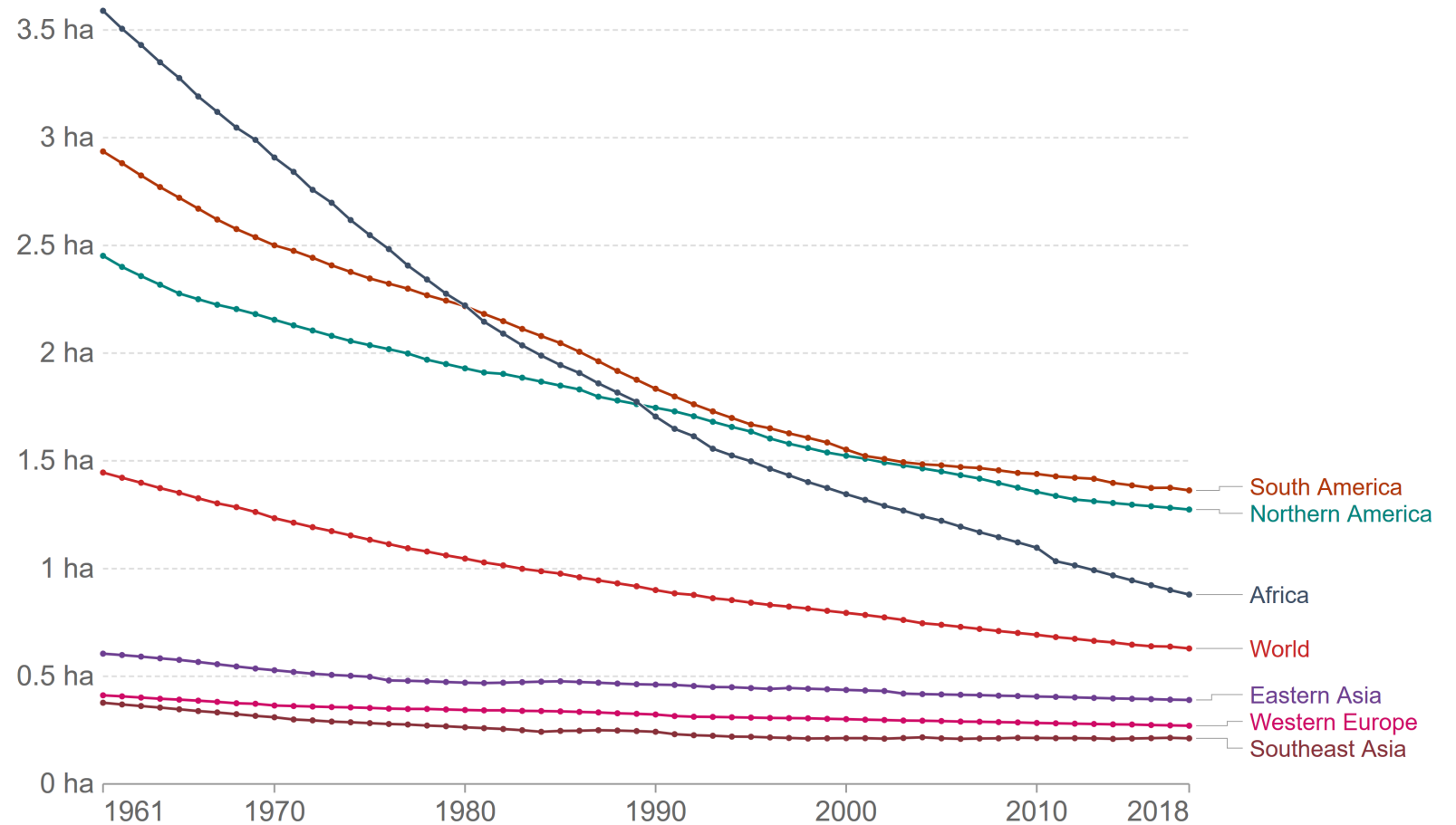


With improved crop yields, we can continue to get more food from less land and also from better managed fisheries.

But we are still losing ground.

## Agricultural land per capita

Agricultural land is the sum of cropland and land used as pasture for grazing livestock.





Coastal ecosystems prevent storm damage and are vital to fisheries. These still face threats, and coral reefs are in serious trouble from ocean warming and other human impacts.

*Depleting the world's natural capital doesn't make sense.*

The World Economic Forum reports that over half the world's GDP is dependent on nature.

And it says that biodiversity loss is a “severe risk” to the world economy.

The logo for the World Economic Forum, featuring the words "WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines. A white circular arc is positioned behind the text, partially overlapping the letters.

**The Global Risks  
Report 2022**  
17th Edition

Tropical  
nature has  
its own  
intrinsic  
value ...



Red-shanked douc, Laos





Ocelot, Costa Rica

Giant anteater, Bolivia



*Cool Fact:* A female strawberry poison-dart frog transports newly hatched tadpoles from the leaves where she laid her eggs to a bromeliad pool, that serves as a nursery. (Bromeliads are plants that grow in the forest canopy.) She then deposits nonviable eggs in the pool, which serve as food for the developing tadpoles.



This Coquerel's  
sifaka (one of  
Madagascar's  
lemurs) is moving  
between trees in  
what is called a  
"dance-hop".



# What can we do to stem biodiversity loss?

Conservation philanthropy is an  
important part of the solution.

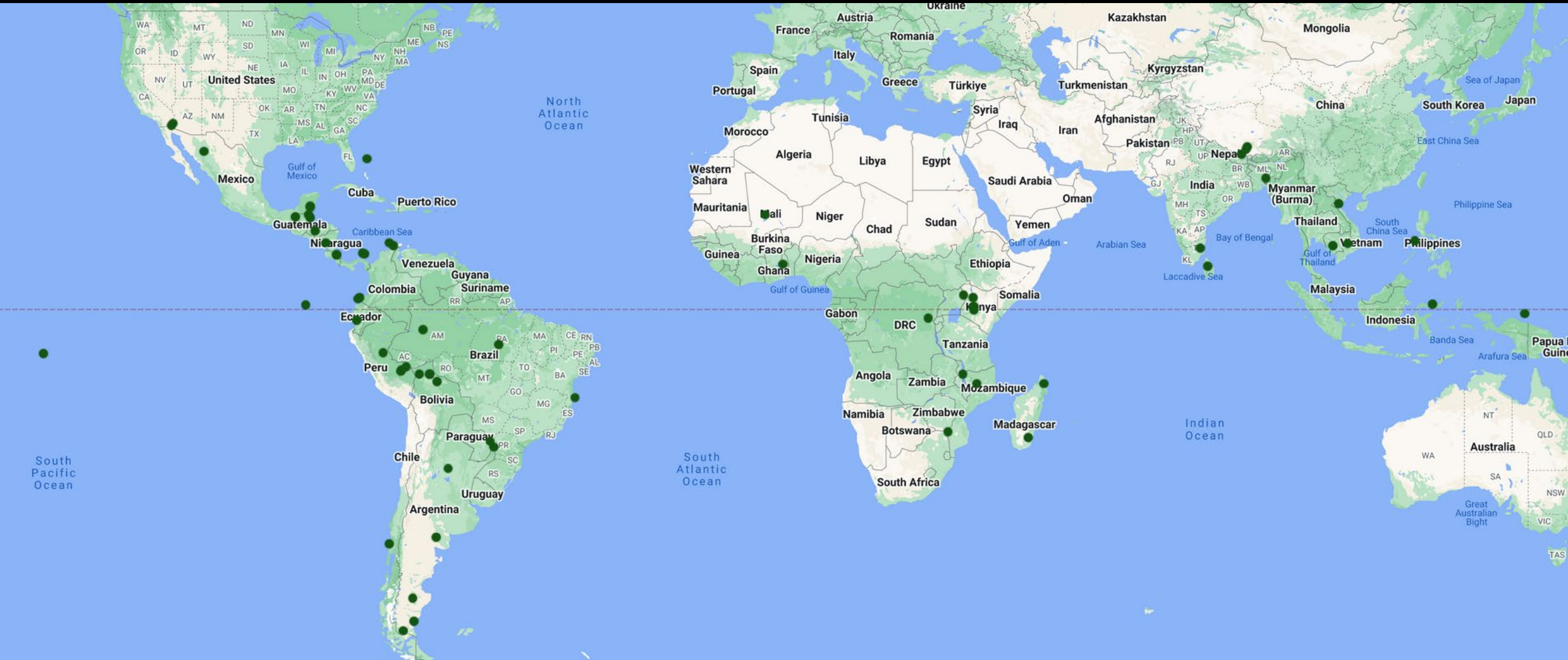


# ICFC

Canadians doing our part to  
conserve the world's most  
threatened ecosystems and species.

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# ICFC Project locations in over 30 countries



Most projects are on land; a few are marine or freshwater.



ICFC looks for the best opportunities and partners with capable local conservation organizations.



Our field partners know best what needs doing and how to go about it.



They're good at engaging local communities.



They work well with governments.

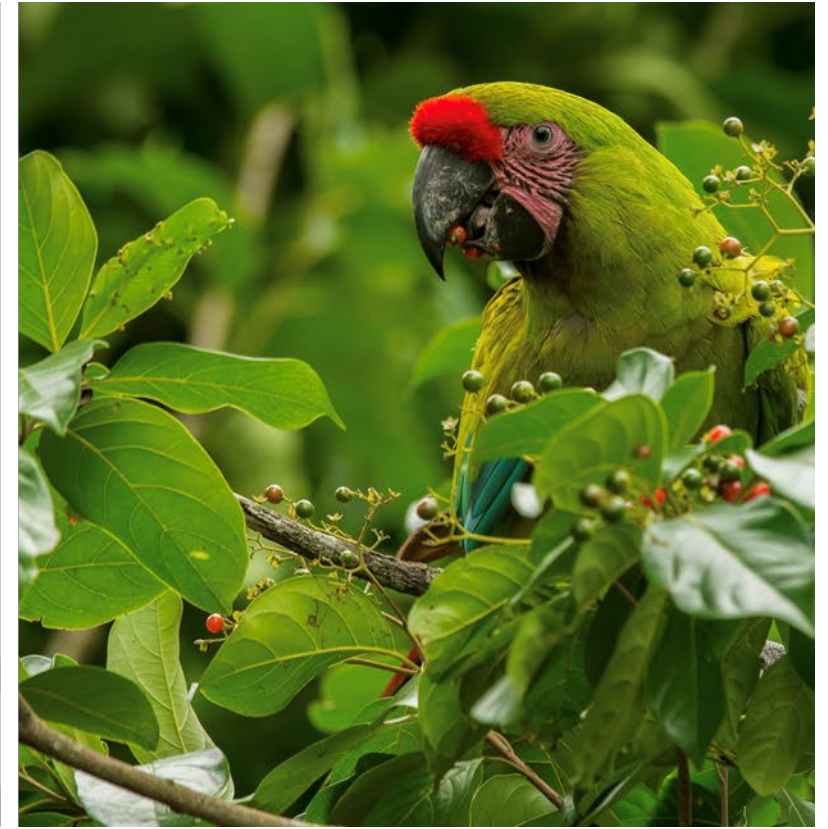


ICFC takes action in various ways.

We conserve large land areas – hundreds or thousands of square kilometres.



Los Amigos Conservation Concession in Peru



This scale of protected area can maintain populations of species with large home ranges.

Some projects conserve land across a large altitudinal gradient, which allows species to adapt to climate change by moving to higher cooler elevations.



ICFC also buys land for small reserves of critical importance to small-range species such as amphibians.



Working with local communities is a key aspect of our work.



In the DRC, we're helping local communities get legal control of their traditional lands, so they can protect the land and its wildlife, which includes lowland gorillas.

The solution to unsustainable fishing at Lake Malawi, a biodiversity hotspot with about 1000 fish species, involves working with community-run Village Beach Committees.







They have turned things around by protecting fish breeding areas and regulating fish-net mesh size.

Our partner in Cambodia has developed an inexpensive anti-trawling device that is highly effective in protecting marine protected areas against destructive illegal bottom-trawling. This is now going to be widely applied across Cambodia.



Seahorses are among the threatened species that benefit from our project in Cambodia.

Made from concrete blocks, this anti-trawling device doubles as an artificial reef.



ICFC has been instrumental in securing a future for several endangered species, including the Hooded Grebe in Patagonia.

We're adding  
protections to  
sites where  
shorebirds  
congregate ...





... including the millions of shorebirds that breed in the Canadian Arctic and depend on migratory stopover and wintering sites in South and Central America.

In the Brazilian Amazon, ICFC is helping the Kayapo protect their Indigenous territories, which are the size of a mid-sized country.



They face intense threats from illegal logging, goldmining, and land invasion ...



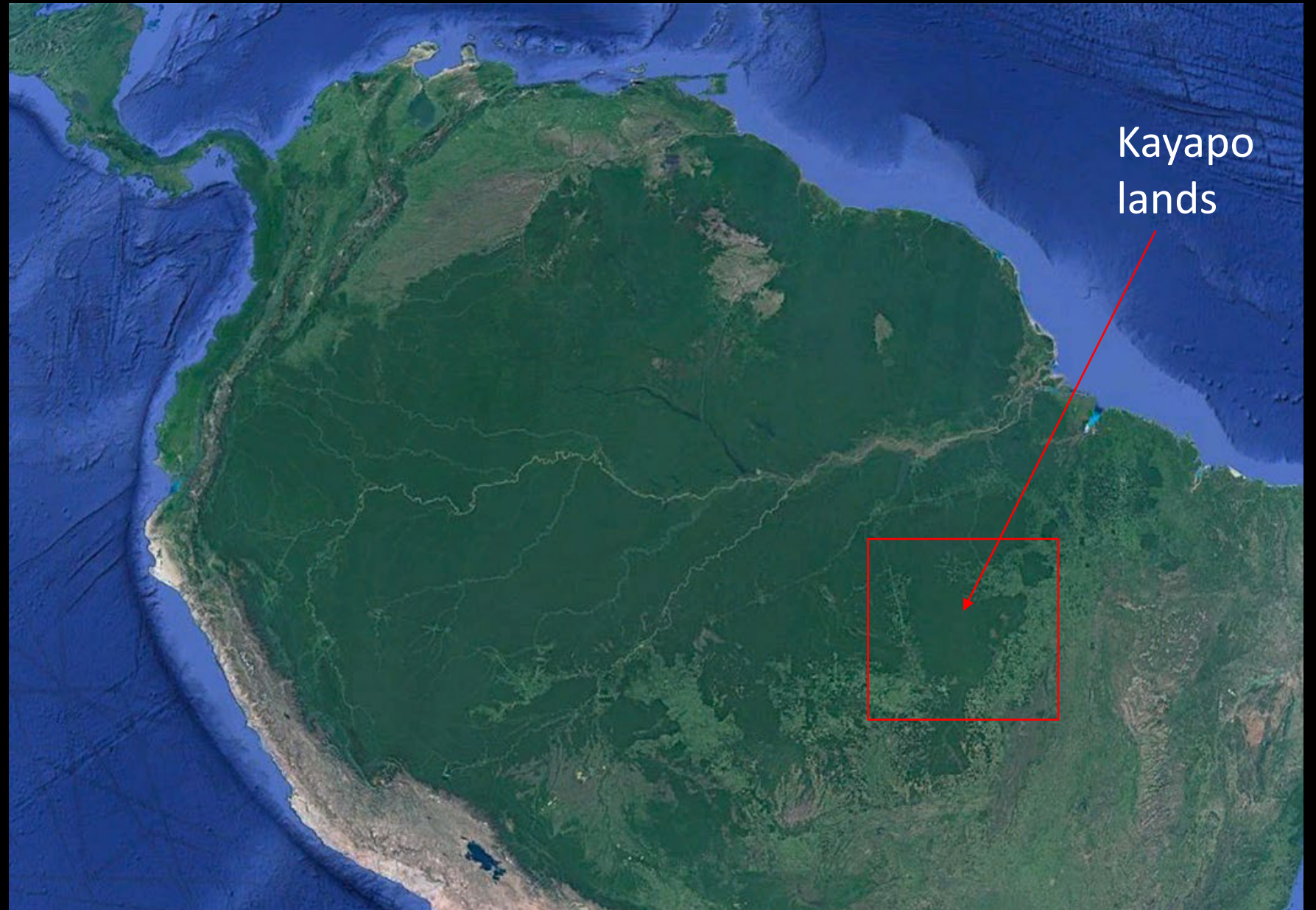


but with our help they are managing to hold the line and to preserve their lands and their traditional way of life.



The Amazon has 54% of the world's remaining intact tropical forest.

It is approaching a tipping point beyond which the forest will no longer generate enough rainfall to sustain itself.





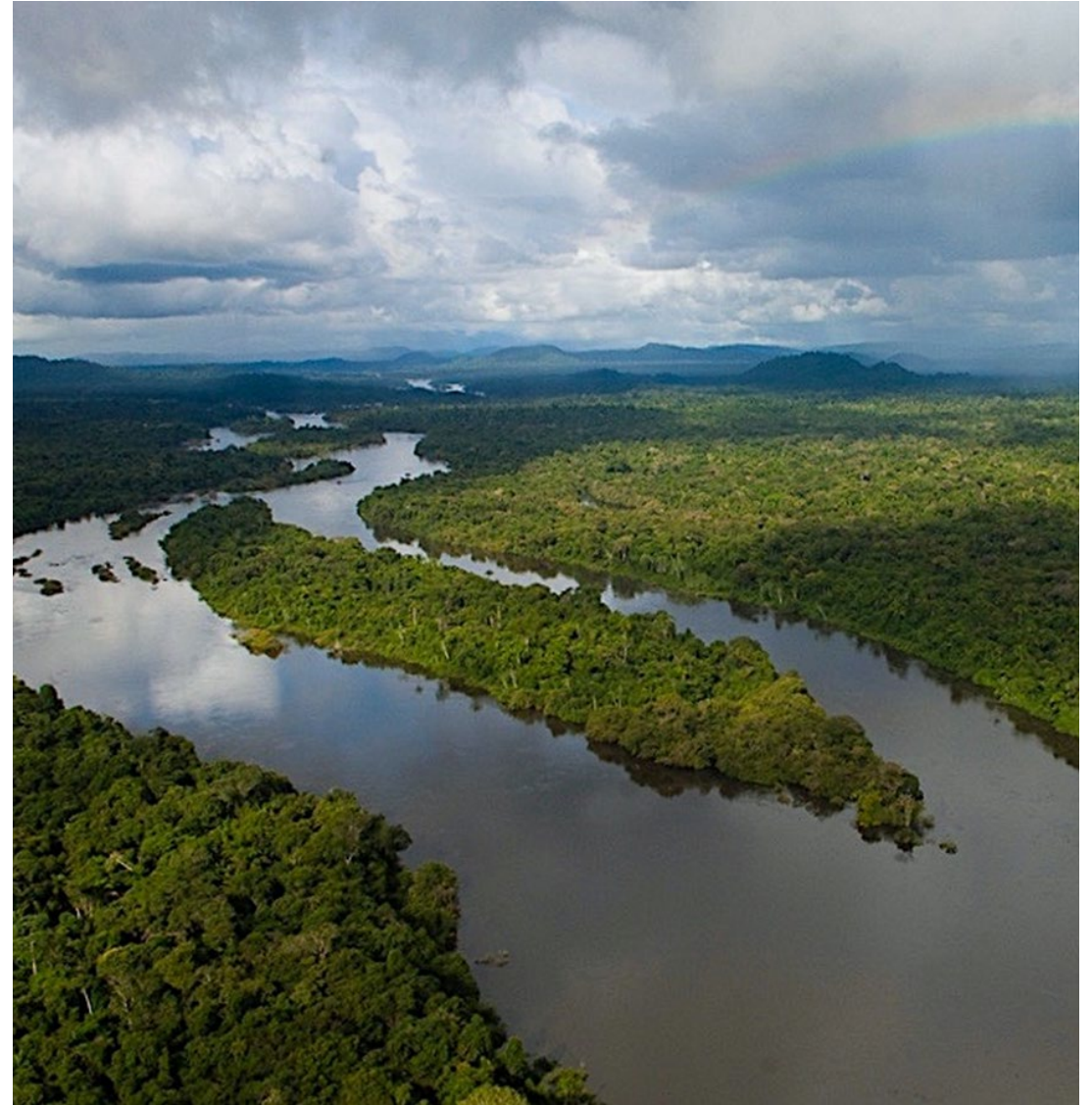
We estimate the cost of the avoided carbon emissions resulting from the Kayapo Project at ~7 cents per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Compare that with carbon abatement measures that typically cost tens or hundreds of dollars per tonne.

The Kayapo Project was pioneered over thirty years ago by a Canadian tropical ecologist, Barbara Zimmerman.



In 2022, Barb was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of this achievement.





*In summary:*  
Tropical nature needs us.

And vice versa!

There are many good opportunities and ICFC is seeking additional support to scale up its work.

We are making a lasting difference.

Let's build on that!

Join us!

