



# RAINFOREST PARTNERSHIP



## 2016 Annual Report



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Rainforest Partners,

In 2016, Rainforest Partnership embarked on a thorough ten year review of the organization -- our projects, process, initiatives, people -- as we appraised our past achievements, performance and the environment in which we were operating in the US and in South America. We assessed our strengths and weaknesses to set ourselves on the trajectory to meet new challenges, establish sustainability for Rainforest Partnership and our projects with our partner communities. We needed to respond effectively to the increasing demands upon all of us that work in this space as climate change is changing the very forests that we work to protect.

This year of intense evaluation focused on maintaining Rainforest Partnership's existing projects and affected revenue and expenditures for the year. That is why, this year we would like to extend our sincerest thank you to all our partners, everyone who contributed or facilitated our continued growth this year.

Help us continue this progress into 2017. Please join us.

With gratitude, on behalf of the board and the whole Rainforest Partnership Team and our rainforest partner communities.



Sincerely,

*Niyanta Spelman*  
Executive Director

# WHY THE AMAZON

## The Amazon Rainforest



Tropical rainforests contain  $\frac{1}{5}$ th of all **freshwater** on our planet.



One acre of trees removes up to **2.6** tons of **carbon dioxide** each year.



The Amazon Basin circulates **20%** of the world's **oxygen**.



In just four square miles of the Amazon Rainforest there can be as many as:

125 species of mammals

**150 species of butterflies**

400 species of birds

750 species of trees

**1,500 species of plants**

### RAINFOREST PARTNERSHIP PROJECT SITES 2016





# HOW WE WORK

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## Our Global Commitment

We strive to create models that can be replicated and implemented beyond the borders of Latin America and into other regions.

By continuously growing our network of global partners who share our dream and commitment towards prosperity for our world's rainforests and peoples, a greater and wider impact can be made.



## On the Ground

We directly work with rainforest communities to help develop sustainable economic opportunities by designing products made of eco-friendly resources as well as establishing services uniquely beneficial to the particular rainforest region and peoples.

We work towards empowering and enabling community members to participate as key players in protecting and monitoring the rainforest and natural resources from negative outside interests.



## Locally in Austin, TX

Our Youth Education Initiative engages young people to learn about the rainforests and the natural world in order to inspire and motivate them towards sustainable decisions.

The annual Films for the Forest event encourages passionate filmmakers to create provoking forest related films which fosters civic engagement.





# OUR PROJECTS

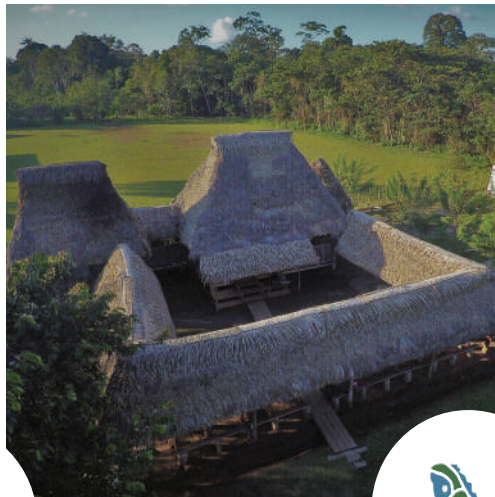
We protect tropical rainforests by partnering with people at global and local levels to create lasting solutions to deforestation.



ACHUAR



COLIBRI



SANI ISLA



CHIPAOTA  
ECOMUSA



CHIPAOTA  
ALLIMA WASKA





## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Build a Traditional Medicine Center.
- Construct a common community well for clean water.
- Host workshops for producing traditional medicine.
- Help find markets for the Achuar people to sell their medicine and crafts.
- Provide cultural and environmental education.
- Site visits and field coordination.

We are working towards helping the Achuar community build a traditional medicinal center and create a socio-economic business model that would value the Achuar culture and traditional livelihood through the sustainable use of natural resources. The traditional medical center will empower the Achuar economically and help them maintain their voice in opposing the intrusion of powerful outside interests who can otherwise disrupt the forest and their way of life.



## Moving Forward

Our next phase of development is to find funding for conducting training workshops among the community members, promoting knowledge coordination and finding markets for the medicinal products in the long-term.

## Location


The larger Achuar community is located on both sides of the Peru-Ecuador border along the headwaters of the Pastaza, Marañon, and Corrientes River Basins.






## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Training workshops for ecotourism and management.
- Construct butterfly sanctuaries to preserve endemic and local species of butterflies to promote their production in a suitable environment.
- Beekeeping workshops to promote apiculture as an ecologically safe economic activity.
- Start sustainable production of coffee in San Antonio community
- Create Conservation Concession Area in both the communities.
- Create a Regional Conservation Area in partnership with the Regional Government of Junin.



The Colibri cloudforest, apart from being very biodiverse, also contributes to essential ecosystem services including being a source of fresh water, regulating rainfall and sequestering carbon.



However, deforestation from illegal logging and land use changes from creation of pastures threaten the wellbeing of the Colibri cloudforest and the high diversity of species that live within it.



## Location

The communities of San Antonio and Calabaza are situated in the Colibri cloudforest in Peru's 'Selva Central' region where the Andes mountains descends to meet the Amazon rainforest.



# SPECIAL INSIGHT ON THE COLIBRI BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY PROJECT

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Peru has around 3,700 species of butterflies, nearly 20% of the world total and the Colibri cloudforest is especially known for its high species diversity.

But the illegal poaching and trafficking of butterfly species along with deforestation directly lead to losses in their population. It takes substantial time for these populations to recover back to normal levels, with the threat of some of these species becoming extinct in this part of the region.

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Once the butterfly sanctuary in San Antonio is implemented, it will be able to grow 15 endemic and local species of butterflies such as Morphe helenor, Caligo eurilochus, and Eryphanis zolvizora during its full operation.

The main outcomes expected from the establishment of this butterfly sanctuary include:

- Curtailing the poaching and illegal trafficking of butterfly species in this region;
- Improving overall butterfly populations
- Providing protection to the Colibri cloudforest
- Creating alliances with researches, scientific institutions and museums committed to the study of Andean butterfly species
- Providing the community with a sustainable mode of income

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For this project, we will be collaborating with Dr. Volodymyr Izerskyy an entomologist who has 17 years of experience in butterfly conservation and management in the Junín region. He will be working with us in providing technical and management assistance.

SERFOR (Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre) has also committed to collaborating on this project with us and the communities. In particular, they hope to use the butterfly sanctuaries as a pilot project that can be replicated in other forest communities across Peru and use this experience to write technical guidelines for future use.

*With funding from the Hollomon Price foundation, we have started the construction of the butterfly sanctuary in San Antonio.*

*We will rely on the expertise of Dr. Izerskyy and follow the strict protocols mandated by SERFOR to implement the next steps.*





We have been conducting series of workshops addressing business management skills, quality control and improved artisan techniques. This project has acted as an important source of empowerment for the women, because it has provided them with their own income source that values their knowledge and skills.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Hold meetings and conduct workshop to strengthen Allima Waska group
- Finish construction of the artisan house to include additional work rooms and ecologically sustainable dry toilets for visitors and customers.
- Develop business plan for promoting the sale of handicrafts in bigger city centers including US.
- Introduction of ecotourism and related activities as an added source of income.



## More About The Piassaba

The piassaba palm has many benefits beyond being a source for fibers. The palm heart is edible and the palm leaves are used by the community members to improvise the infrastructure of their dwellings.

## Location

800 inhabitants live in the community-titled land bordering the Cordillera Azul National Park in the Amazonian region of northern Peru





## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Hold meetings and conduct workshops to strengthen Ecomusa group.
- Conduct regular forest patrols and improve the self-defense committee.
- Implement the management plan and timelines for Piassaba harvests and commercialization.
- Review and upgrade the machinery used for making brooms.
- Obtain permission from the Regional Authority to come up with a technical management plan for using Bolaina (*Gauzuma crinita*) plant species in Chipaota, which is used for making the handles of brooms.
- Develop a Regional Piassaba management committee.

The unsustainable harvesting and overexploitation of the Piassaba palm species (*Aphandra natalia*) led to reduction in their population. For the community of Chipaota, the palm fiber extraction was economically viable and already a part of the local culture but it was also unsustainable, requiring the cutting down of entire trees in order to access the fibers.



## More About Ecomusa

We helped 40 families from the community to create Ecomusa, a community-owned business which produces and markets brooms from the fiber. Compared to simply selling the Piassaba palm's raw fibers in the nearby towns, selling the brooms can bring in more than 2.5 times the income.







## SANI ISLA UPDATES

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In 2015, we successfully completed our project in the Sani Isla community in Ecuador. The women led Sani Warmi project (an artisan business aimed at promoting exquisite handmade accessories made from natural resources) has empowered the women to be economically sustainable, strengthened their resolve in standing up to outside interests and allowed them to be a strong voice for forest conservation.

We released a downloadable case study of this project in 2016.





# RP IN THE COMMUNITY



Austin City Limits Music Festival



Films For The Forest 2016



2016 Celebration Dinner



SXSW Eco 2016



# FINANCIALS

## Income

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Foundation Grants                  | \$20,000  |
| Fundraising Events                 | \$93,614  |
| Individual and Other Contributions | \$58,066  |
| In-kind good and services          | \$373,125 |
| Other Income                       | \$1,202   |

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|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$546,007</b> |
|--------------|------------------|

## Expenses

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Program Services      | \$425,419 |
| Managment and General | \$50,174  |
| Fundraising           | \$37,417  |

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|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$513,010</b> |
|--------------|------------------|

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# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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**WE WANT TO THANK THE MORE THAN 35 DONORS WHO GAVE US \$500 TO \$20,000 AS WELL AS ALL OUR CONTINUING AND NEW SUPPORTERS. IN THE INTEREST OF PROTECTING OUR DONORS FROM SOLICITATION, WE HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO LIST THEIR NAMES.**

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

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**WE WANT TO THANK THE 63 VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS AND OUR IN-KIND DONORS WHO TOGETHER GAVE US \$373,125 WORTH OF SERVICES AND GOODS THAT FUELED OUR VERY IMPORTANT WORK.**



To learn more about our work and to  
become involved, please visit us at:

**RainforestPartnership.org**

