About Us

Rainforest Partnership is an international non-profit social enterprise committed to protecting tropical rainforests.

We partner with communities in Latin America to help make it more valuable for them to keep their forests standing. By creating a global network—linking people to people, community to community—we act as a catalyst to create long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

Our 2011 Board of Directors

John Doggett, Board Chair
Hazel Barbour, Past Board Chair
Toby Tiktinsky, Board Treasurer
Burghard Petersen, Board Governance Officer
Francisco Boza, Board Member
Charlotte Streck, Board Member
How RP Works

We partner with forest communities to help them make an income that allows them to protect their forests. Together, we do this by developing rainforest products: raw materials, finished goods, and services that can be found in the rainforest. By developing the market for these products locally, elsewhere in Latin America, and in the U.S., sales of these goods and services give residents a financial stake in protecting their forests.

Our project model is collaborative, bottom-up, and results-driven. We work with communities that want an alternative to deforestation, that allows them to earn an income while protecting their forests and their way of life. To help accomplish this objective, we collaborate with these communities to design and implement sustainable projects that use market-based approaches.

Our project model enables economic activities that are viable long-term and environmentally sustainable.
Why It Matters

Tropical rainforests host over 50% of the world’s biodiversity. In just four square miles of Amazon there can be as many as 1,500 species of plants, 750 species of trees, 400 species of birds, and 150 species of butterflies. Tropical rainforests are also incredible water reservoirs. One fifth of the world's fresh water is found in the Amazon Basin, contributing to the regulation of the Earth’s temperature and influencing global weather patterns.

Despite the importance of this ecosystem, these forests are rapidly disappearing. Because tropical rainforests play a crucial role in storing carbon, their deforestation is responsible for more than 17% of the annual carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. The current rate of tropical rainforest deforestation results in more carbon emissions than from all cars, trucks and planes on the planet combined, and could cause the loss of 5 to 10% of tropical rainforest species per decade.
Letter from the Board Chair and the Executive Director

Dear Rainforest Partner,

Rainforest Partnership has now been actively working for four years with rainforest communities in Peru and Ecuador; we have developed strong relationships with our partners in South America. We have learnt that the people living in and around the forest are best able to protect their forest. Our goal is to partner with them so that they can make a sustainable income and have a vested, financial interest in protecting their forest.

Tropical rainforests, the "lungs" of the planet once covered over 12 percent of the Earth's land surface just 100 years ago; today, about half of that remains. The rainforest may not be in our backyards, but we need to protect them as though they were.

This is our pact at Rainforest Partnership. And, we are now looking forward to creating a sustainable communities initiative working with our partner communities as well as companies in South America and North America. If we are successful, we will change the way our partner communities preserve their way of life, their forests and improve their livelihood.

Join us.

Sincerely,

John Doggett, Board Chair

Niyanta Spelman, Executive Director
Out & About with RP in 2011

Origin Magazine Article, July/August 2011 Issue
“Community, Connection, Conversation, & You”

Niyanta Spelman interview in Austin Monthly, December 2011 Issue

Maurine Winkley Guest Blog posts for Global Conversations

Niyanta Spelman interviewed by Hub Culture

Rainforest Partnership Celebration: A Night in the Clouds covered by Michael Barnes; Out & About Austin360 Blog, and The Austin-American Statesman

2nd Annual Films for the Forest

Climate Week Event in NYC

Rainforest in the Redwoods in San Francisco

Lush Charity Pot Release Party

3rd Annual Celebration Event: A Night in the Clouds

Fashion for the Forest Fashion Show

Multiple conferences during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change, COP 17 in Durban, South Africa
Projects in 2011
Colibri Cloudforest, Peru

In the past two years, we have been helping the Colibri Cloudforest community develop infrastructure to support and market ecotourism. This project preserves the beauty of the cloudforest by building diverse and sustainable income sources that do not depend on deforestation.

In 2011, the Colibri Cloudforest communities worked to develop both basic infrastructure and community relationships. Cooking workshops gave the women in the community the opportunity to combine their locally grown food with traditional recipes to cook healthy and varied meals for tourists. The hostel in Calabaza was renovated, and now includes a restroom with shower facilities. The public restrooms in Calabaza have been improved by the installation of piping and fixtures to modernize facilities and protect public health.

During the summer, three volunteers held English classes for the children and women, helped build new trails, and conducted an assessment of the needs of the community. Their work further solidified trusting relationships between RP staff and the communities.

In the latter part of 2011, the community of San Antonio legally formed an association of community members to define roles in their ecotourism business. They have agreed on seven objectives, which includes working towards creating a forest preserve alongside their community. Additionally, detailed plans for the hostel in San Antonio have been completed, and construction will begin in 2012.
Waterfalls in the Colibri Cloudforest

The communities of San Antonio and Calabaza are tucked into the Peruvian cloud forest. Because of the high elevation and frequent rainfall, many of the cliffs and rivers have waterfalls. A ten minute walk down the trail from the site of the future hostel leads you to a stunning waterfall where you can swim and view the elusive mating dance of the cock-of-the-rock bird.

Driving up the main road past Calabaza, you are able to walk up the trail to other magnificent waterfalls. These are just a few of many that have been discovered and are accessible by trails. In 2012, the communities plan to set up more hiking trails to the waterfalls and also to rare 300 year old trees.

For the latest news about the developments in the Colibri Cloudforest project, please visit our website.
Chipaota, Peru

Since 2008, we have been working with the Chipaota community on two projects: creating and implementing a management plan for piassaba palm fiber that is used in the production of brooms, and working with the women of the community to create traditional Quechua artisan handicrafts. Our collaborative efforts have resulted in more sustainable harvest of the fiber while producing a value-added product, and have also created an income for women who have never taken part in their local economy. Protection of the community’s 9,000 acres of forest continues through the designated management plan and through ongoing patrols and active oversight by the community.

After completing construction of the broom production facility in the summer of 2010, the community has been producing, marketing, and selling brooms both in the community and around the region. The broom factory project and piassaba management plan inspired the regional government to work together with RP to further develop the legal and environmentally sustainable harvesting of piassaba palm fiber around San Martin. ECOMUSA, the communal business of piassaba harvesters, is currently in the process of reorganizing the way members participate for better business management in 2012.
Chipaota, Peru

Artisan Group

In the artisan project in the Chipaota community, Rainforest Partnership has been working with the women and a few of the men to create handicrafts from non-timber forest products using indigenous methods. In 2011, construction began on the artisan studio – a central, open space where the women will be able to create, store, and display their crafts. They are very enthusiastic and excited to have a space for their work. In 2012, their goals include establishing quality control for the crafts, finding channels of distribution for the products in Tarapoto and Lima, and finishing construction on the first floor of the artisan studio.

For more information on our two projects in Chipaota, Peru, please visit our website.
Since 2010, Rainforest Partnership has worked with the women of Sani Isla to develop a community-run artisan crafts business to provide the women with their own income stream. The alternative source of income promotes the recovery of native species in the rainforest. This project is allowing the women to have a say, directly through the income they are earning as well as the empowerment they have felt, as the community protects their titled community land of about 45,000 acres of Amazon forest.

In 2011, the women greatly improved the quality and rate of production of artisan crafts. With our partner Conservación y Desarrollo (CyD), we conducted a series of workshops on the design and production of artisan crafts with more than 20 women. They now make a variety of jewelry and bags and play a more active role in coordinating tourist visits to the artisan studio in order to encourage the purchasing of their crafts. The women also continue to tend to the nursery that they planted in 2010 and hope to be harvesting these seeds to be used in the artisan crafts in the years to come.
In the last year we have also worked with our partner CyD to begin a series of workshops on business management. The women are learning to price their work based on the type of materials used in each product and the time it takes to make each item in order to ensure that they earn a profit. They are also learning how to do basic accounting to keep track of sales and profits. The women have already showed significant progress in these business management skills and we will continue to work with them to develop those skills further in the year to come.

For more information on the progress the women are making in Sani Isla, please visit our website.
2011 Financial Snap Shot

### Income

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Fundraising Events</td>
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<td>In-Kind Contribution</td>
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<td>Individual Donors</td>
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<td>Investment &amp; Interest</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<tr>
<td>Total Program Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Fundraising Costs</td>
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<td>Management &amp; Fundraising In-Kind Expense</td>
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<td>Program In-Kind Expense</td>
<td>375,397</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 567,359</strong></td>
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**Net Income**

($26,828)
Rainforest Partnership is able to operate because of the extremely high quantity and quality of in-kind donations we receive from our partners. In 2011, our in-kind donations increased by almost 70%, from $246,080 in 2010 to $416,403 in 2011.

For more information on our in-kind donations, or to make an in-kind donation in 2012, please visit our website.
Rainforest Partnership thanks all of our Contributors of 2011

**$10,000 +**

- IBM
- Winkler Foundation
- Tomberg Family Philanthropies

**$2,500- $10,000**

- Accelerator Holdings, LLC
- BoardSource
- Armbrust & Brown
- Brown McCarroll, LLP
- Eya Productions
- John Doggett
- LUSH
- Reagan National Advertising
- Sheridan Lorenz
- SXSW

**$1,000- $2,499**

- Alice Glasco
- Barry & Loewy LLP
- Charlotte Streck
- Environmental PR Group
- Hazel Barbour
- Maurine Thomason
- Texas Gas Service
- Toby Tiktinsky

**$500- $999**

- Allens Boots
- Aman Bandali
- Bill Talbot
- Admiral Bobby Inman
- Brookfield Residential
- Charlotte Herzele
- Craig Pedersen
- Cindy Evans & Jon Powell
- Detour Filmproduction
- Dominion ADVISORS
- Guero’s
- Jasiel Spelman
- JoAnna & Mike Troppy
- Leo Bayer
- Linda & Nick van Bavel
- Liveable City
- Martha Terry
- MCKW Equities
- MWM Design Group
- Navdeep Sooch
- Nick Barbaro & Susan Moffat
- Nikelle Meade
- NRG Energy
- Raul Pelaez-Prada
- Sam Planta
- Sean Kelly
- Steven (Craig) Damuth
- Teresa & John Damuth
- Winkley Engineering
- Woodland Property Group

**$100- $499**

- Amelia Lopez
- Anna Scodel
- Ann Marie Birky
- Anonymous
- Anurag Kumar
- Barnard School of Bartending
- Bill Imada
- Bob & Jean Warneke
- Bonnie Welch
- Burghard Petersen
- Carlyne & George Majewski
- Carol Cespedes
- Chan & Partners Engineering
- Craig Bernardini
- Cynthia Bryant
- Dana Sprute & Michael Osborne
- David MacDermott
- Edgar Reed
- First United Methodist Church
- Gary Cobb
- Gina Shishima
- Hill Country Outdoors
- Jan Soifer
- Jefferson Boyt
- Jeffrey Smith
- Jerry Harris
- John Whitfield & Robena Jackson
- Juan Valera
- Julia & Glen Spelman
- Juliee Beyt

**List of Contributors:**

- Lisa (Ping-Hui) Lin
- Mark Yznaga
- Mandy Dealey
- Mark Rowe
- Matt Moore
- Mike Stanley
- My-Cherie Haley
- Patricia Wilson
- Phillip Russel
- Raja Malkani
- Robert Eby
- Robert & Cindy Liverman
- Ruth Scodel
- Sam (Shen Ting) Chen
- Sara & Colin Clark
- Sedora Jefferson
- Sheela Rai
- Sherri Greenberg
- Sylvia Hardman
- Tiffany Harelík
- Tom & Debbie Beck
- Tod Wickersham & Denise
- Rayborn Wickersham
- Victoria Li
- Will Dibrell
- William Bunch
- William Tamminga
- Wyndy Penner
- Yvonne Lopez-Noack
Thank You to All our Partners!

On a fun afternoon in the office, RP staff, volunteers & interns welcome new Board Members. (From left to right: Board Member Francisco Boza, Anna Trela, Jon Baumgardner, Juan Mejia, Natalie Rivera, Bonnie Welch, Niyanta Spelman, Katie Drell, Board Member Burghard Petersen, Maurine Winkley, Hallie Brant, & Laurie Cummings.)
Thank you to our interns and volunteers of 2011!

<table>
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<th>Alex Vlahoidmitropoulos</th>
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<td>Allen Kumassah</td>
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<td>Dianne Sebai</td>
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<td>Dolly Shiu</td>
<td>Kate Ritchie</td>
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<td>Eileen Keller</td>
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<td>Lindsey Engelman</td>
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<td>Francisco Garcia</td>
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<td>Garima Jain</td>
<td>Margaret Weihs</td>
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