

Welcome to *The Understory*, our first quarterly newsletter!

The rainforest's understory is usually warm, damp, and dark, so why name a newsletter after it? Because it's in this layer of the forest—between 15 and 49 feet—that forest life thrives. In this inaugural issue you will read how your support is having a direct impact on the ground with our partners in Panama, Guyana, Peru, and Brazil. Please send us your comments and suggestions about how we can improve "The Understory" by writing to communications@rffny.org. Enjoy!

FROM THE GROUND



MAP-MAKING IS PROTECTING GUYANA'S FORESTS

In Guyana, indigenous people have clamored for better land recognition since the harsh days of early colonialism. Now, after several years' labor, rights' groups have crafted detailed maps that accurately depict indigenous land. These unprecedented "land tenure assessments" detail the true threats the territories face today.

[READ MORE](#)

AS FEATURED ON NPR, CARLOS DOVIAZA'S PASSION FOR MAPS MADE A DIFFERENCE DURING PANAMA'S COVID-19 CRISIS

When Panama was hit by the first wave of COVID-19 last spring, RFUS cartographer Carlos Doviaza feared for the lives of his fellow indigenous relatives. "I have learned that data and maps often are more powerful than words," said Doviaza, who created an interactive online map to monitor the pandemic in indigenous territories in Panama.



[READ MORE](#)



FEAR AND GOLD IN RAPOSA SERRA DO SOL

It's hard for people to sleep in the village of Raposa II. The crackling of gunfire and non-stop noise of generators running throughout the night in nearby illegal gold mining sites permeates the homes of those living on this indigenous land in Brazil's northern state of Roraima.

[READ MORE](#)

HOW DRONES ARE PROTECTING RAINFORESTS

In an interview with Yale Climate Connections, Suzanne Pelletier, Executive Director at Rainforest Foundation US, discusses how the combination of cutting-edge technology and traditional governance systems can empower indigenous communities and help protect our rainforests.



[PODCAST / INTERVIEW](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH US!

Not only are rainforests home to astonishing biodiversity, but they also regulate climate and water cycles across continents. Science shows that indigenous peoples are the best protectors of nature. We celebrate Earth Day to remind ourselves of the fragility of the planet and we honor those who protect it.

JOIN OUR 10-DAY CHALLENGE AND MAKE A PLEDGE TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE!

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH US

Take a selfie and share why you want to protect the rainforest. Use hashtags [#PledgeForChange](#), [#SaveTheRainforest](#) and [#EarthDay2021](#) and don't forget to tag us [@RainforestUS](#).

[SHARE NOW!](#)



GET INVOLVED

RAINFOREST TRIVIA

WHAT PERCENT OF TERRESTRIAL LIFE LIVES IN FORESTS?



35%

50%

65%

80%

DONOR'S CORNER

"I was first drawn to the Rainforest Foundation because I'm concerned about climate change, and I know that protecting forests is a critical part of responding to the climate crisis. But as I've learned more about their work, I've been impressed by their deep ties to indigenous communities. I give monthly because I want to keep those relationships going, protecting both our climate and the rights of indigenous peoples."

- Katherine Casey
Arlington, VA



[DONATE TODAY](#)

For over 30 years, Rainforest Foundation US has worked to address climate change and safeguard biodiversity by promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and protecting rainforests from further destruction. Continue to support our efforts to protect and defend the rainforest by making a contribution to RFUS today.

