



Nature's Share of Earth – How Much Is Enough? Why Saving Small Spaces Matters

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The coming decade is likely to see species extinctions happening at 1,000 times the natural rate. The increasing appetite of a world population on pace to reach 8 billion is devouring natural resources. Relentless demand for timber, energy, minerals, and unsustainable land use threatens to accelerate the spiral of deforestation, climate change impact, and mass extinctions.

News audiences may feel helpless, besieged by reports of weakening protections for endangered species, forest fires, melting arctic ice, disease vectors, and more. Many simply tune out.

Good news for journalists: We have some good news to report.

Many species live in an area smaller than 1,000 square kilometers. For these species, an infinitesimal share of the planet is their entire world. When it's gone, they are too. We know how to prevent that. And with our partners, we are making progress.

Creating habitat corridors, setting aside small critical areas for conservation, is a proven approach for practical actions that have big impact for animals and ecosystems.

To protect all life on Earth, including our own species, biodiversity scholar E. O. Wilson has called for ecosystems preservation on the scale of "Half Earth." But which half? And how? We'd like to talk about that.



We have exciting stories to tell, of people, land, animals, and projects that are strengthening and saving as much biodiversity as we can, right now, on our increasingly crowded planet.

Members of the Society of Environmental Journalists, please visit www.savingnature.com and <https://savingnature.com/media-resources/> and contact us for:

- ideas and background for story grant proposals and investigative projects
- contacts, interviews, data, research studies
- photography, camera trap video, help gathering sound and graphics
- help on deadline

Read on for examples of topics and projects you might explore. Thanks for your good work We look forward to hearing from you.

~Erin and Stuart

Geography is Destiny

In choosing projects for Saving Nature, Dr. Pimm identifies areas where high concentrations of small range species live in extremely fragmented landscapes. He looks for the convergence of species density, broken linkages between forests, and the opportunity to purchase private land.

Results from Saving Nature projects over the last decade in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, India, and the Indonesian island of Sumatra can be seen from space, in before and after satellite imagery the team monitors annually.

Scientists have a prescription for how to slow the rate of extinction. Very roughly, a forest fragment must be at least 1,000 hectares to slow the time it takes to lose half the species to a century or more. By creating corridors that reconnect habitat fragments and making them large enough, species will have a fighting chance to persist in the long term³.

Saving Nature uses large sets of data to produce strategic maps that indicate where to best intervene. Rather than focusing on a few charismatic species, our projects maximize conservation impact by directing efforts to places facing imminent loss of biodiversity and ecosystems where isolated remnants of habitat can be reconnected to create larger areas. By reforesting relatively small habitat corridors, we can reunite isolated populations that have become genetically stranded.



A Second Chance for Golden Lion Tamarins

For over a decade, the team at Saving Nature has worked to restore and protect Brazil's Atlantic Forest through a multi-year partnership with DOB Ecology and Associação Mico Leão Dourado (AMLD). To date, the effort has reconnected almost 32,000 acres of forest.

Our flagship project to create a vital connection for the successful reintroduction of golden lion tamarins back into the wild began in 2007. Twelve years in the making – purchasing and reforesting degraded cattle pasture - it has become a functioning wildlife corridor. The trees have matured into a continuous canopy connecting two forests over a road, creating a migratory pathway for the endangered golden lion tamarin and other imperiled species to travel through previously degraded and fragmented landscapes.

Our second project in Brazil launched in 2016. It connects another two large surviving fragments of the Atlantic Forest to establish an important gateway into the Golden Lion Tamarin Reserve over a highway bridge – the first of its kind in Brazil.

Rights of Passage for Sumatran Elephants

In 2018, Saving Nature launched a 3-year initiative to build a 725-acre wildlife corridor in the Leuser ecosystem to help elephants and other species move through the remaining forest fragments in Sumatra.

Working with our local partner, Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL), our goal is to connect and area of almost 14,000 acres that has been recently designated by the government as an elephant conservation area with nearly 750,000 acres of protected forest (production forest, protection forest and national park). We purchase and restore failed agricultural land, transforming it into forested elephant routes.

Earlier this year, elephants with radio collars have already been recorded moving through the new corridor.

Helping Species Escape Climate Change in Colombia

Saving Nature assists cloud forest species trying to migrate upslope to maintain a favorable climate. We began in Colombia, which could become number one in climate-caused extinctions, unless we create forested escape routes to higher elevations.

We began purchasing and reforesting degraded land in 2012 with Fundación Colibrí, a Colombia-based NGO that has been leading conservation efforts in the region for over a decade. To date, we have connected 247,000 acres of forest with a 3,800 acre wildlife corridor. Camera trap videos show that even in forest only six years old, species such as pumas and ocelots are reclaiming their habitat.



These and other projects demonstrate that habitat corridors bring good news and one of the highest returns on investment for biodiversity worldwide. One can massively slow the loss of species through the connection, protection, and restoration of key corridors without having to purchase large areas.

Visit savingnature.com and contact us to learn more.