



## Rainforest Rescue – Fast Facts 2014

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Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation, established in 1998.

**Vision:** To protect rainforests forever

**Mission:** To achieve our vision through the five pillars of our conservation strategy:

- **Preservation:** Rainforest Rescue's cornerstone activity (and 'point of difference' from many environmental organisations) is its 'buy back' program, through which 135 Hectares of Australian rainforest – mostly zoned for development – have been purchased for preservation.
- **Restoration:** Rainforest Rescue works with and through organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, North Sumatra and Ecuador. It has its own community nursery in Far North Queensland where it propagates around 180 species of rainforest plants from collected seeds. These are planted to restore degraded rainforest land to high levels of bio-diversity. Camera traps in Sumatra and the Daintree prove that when rainforest flora is restored, fauna returns.
- **Biodiversity conservation:** Efforts to conserve threatened and endangered plant and animal species is integral to Rainforest Rescue's work. 'Keystone' species such as the Southern Cassowary and Sumatran Orangutan are vital to rainforest eco-systems and protecting them is important if rainforests are to survive.
- **Research:** Through a grant to Rainforest Rescue from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund, rainforest ecologist Robert Kooyman is conducting scientific research in Far North Queensland into carbon bio-sequestration through preserved and planted rainforest plants. Other research projects are now in development.
- **Education:** campaigns such as *Save the Cassowary* and regular newsletters, volunteer events and media updates continue to spread the message that rainforests and the biodiversity within them are critical to human life and urgently need our attention and protection.

Rainforest Rescue is an Australian Company Limited by Guarantee. It is managed by a Board of Directors who contribute their services on a voluntary basis. Five dedicated staff raise funds to deliver the conservation strategy from the head office in Mullumbimby, Northern NSW. Four project staff manage the property portfolio, restoration program and nursery operations in the Daintree and a dedicated group of volunteers undertakes a myriad tasks from sorting mail to planting trees.

Rainforest Rescue has deductible gift recipient status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

### Key Achievements

1. Since 2010, Rainforest Rescue has raised almost \$4.5 million from business partners, governments, philanthropic trusts and more than 5,000 individuals from around the globe.
2. Since 1999, Rainforest Rescue has 'bought back' more than 55 Hectares in the Daintree, 80 Hectares in Tasmania and contributed to the purchase of 1,476 Hectares in Ecuador.
3. To date, Rainforest Rescue has planted more than 50,000 trees in the Daintree, 120,000 trees in sub-tropical NSW's Big Scrub and 55,000 in Indonesia.