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Spider Monkeys



Spider Monkeys Made a Comeback with Your Support!

You probably think black-handed spider monkeys are cute. And they are! But these spider monkeys are critically endangered, and are now extinct in the majority of Central America’s dry forest. When we started our spider monkey program in Nicaragua in 2005, it was almost impossible to see them.

But over the years, **donors like you** funded ranger patrols, strategic reforestation, community education, and other projects, like the Mono Bayo Reserve. And guess what? Our community rangers estimate that there are now **almost 250 monkeys in just the areas that we patrol each week**. What a difference!

With your gift, you helped apply science and raise awareness to bring this local population back from the brink. And **each monkey you saved is helping bring back her forest whenever she eats fruit!** Her waste contains seeds, which can sprout and help her forest expand. So, your gift still helps her ecosystem AND fights climate change. **Thank you!**



Thanks to your generosity, there is hope for critically endangered spider monkeys!



Spider Monkey Work Progressed in El Salvador

It's hard to believe that large forest mammals like spider monkeys are still around in El Salvador, Central America's most populous country. **But a few monkeys remain, and you helped them!**

Last year, you helped to hire eight additional community rangers to patrol and protect the forest near the Olomega Lagoon, where spider monkeys were recently rediscovered. **You protected this fragile group of monkeys from hunters, loggers, and forest fires!** Thank you. We also send thanks to partners such as Zoo Boise, Apenheul Primate Park, IUCN Netherlands, and the Thin Green Line Foundation for powering our work with monkeys in El Salvador.

Director's Note to You

Dear Friend,

I am eager to share this newsletter telling you that your support made a difference for wildlife and communities. Thank you!

Effective conservation requires time, but it leads to transformation. Based on our data, we believe that the number of spider monkeys in the Paso del Istmo Wildlife Corridor, where we have been working for over fifteen years, has increased by over fifty percent! Our work in El Salvador is just beginning, but is already making a difference for the monkeys and their habitat. I recently talked with people from rural areas in El Salvador. They told me about something extraordinary — *they didn't notice any wildfires this year.* I knew that this was because of the firefighting efforts of our dedicated rangers, supported by donors like you.

Your gift supported many other local actions that are shaping a better future. Changing subjects, here are some turtle conservation updates from the past few weeks: we just installed devices in three rivers to catch plastic pollution in El Salvador, and our Nicaraguan rangers worked with college students at UNAN-Managua to design incubators for displaced sea turtle eggs. Carried out in addition to our regular efforts, these projects are making an extra difference. And you made all of this possible.



Thank you,

Sarah M. Otterstrom, Ph.D.
Founder & Executive Director

“We are here, always caring for our community and the animals, just like I protect the dove nesting on my roof. It's beautiful.” — Ranger José Ramos

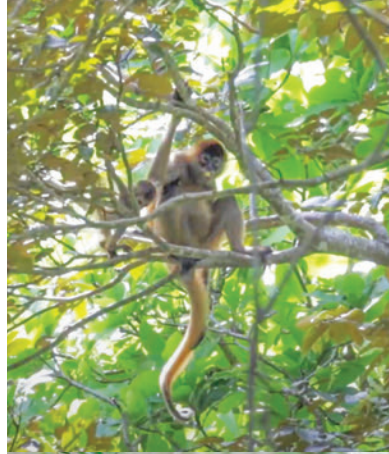


What is the Mono Bayo Reserve?

The Mono Bayo Reserve is a 120-acre protected area in Nicaragua. Located in the heart of the Paso del Istmo Wildlife Corridor, it has a year-round stream and thriving secondary forest. There, Junior Rangers get to observe and learn about wildlife in the dry tropical forest. They see monkeys both in the tree canopy and at the Karen Warren and Susan White Spider Monkey Sanctuary, which houses rescued spider monkeys that were saved thanks to the sanctuary's namesake donors.

Named after the local term for a spider monkey, the reserve is a haven for many species. Donors like you have helped us maintain its hiking trails, migratory bird banding station, camera traps, native bee colonies, and artificial nests for endangered parrots. Mono Bayo also hosts tree planting, bird counts, and other citizen science activities. We are grateful to IUCN Netherlands and other private donors for making this reserve possible.

"I like spider monkeys a lot because they are very mischievous and more playful and active than the howler monkeys I usually see around my community. They are stronger too, and their diet is more balanced than other monkeys' diets. And I like that they travel and eat in small groups. — Kimberling T., a Junior Ranger



Scan this QR code to see wild spider monkeys!



Captive Care Improved for Rescued Spider Monkeys

By giving, you not only helped spider monkeys stay in the wild. You also helped give better care to rescued animals in El Salvador!

Unfortunately, spider monkeys and other animals are often stolen from the wild and sold into the illegal pet trade. El Salvador's Ministry of the Environment (MARN) has increased law enforcement against such crimes, and has successfully confiscated many monkeys and parrots. But these animals often no longer have the skills to survive in the wild. Rescue centers are doing their best to care for them, but their keepers are often new to the job and need training.

Both spider monkeys and parrots are especially challenging to care for in captivity since they are social, very intelligent, and arrive highly traumatized from being trafficked since infancy.

Your support enabled us to work with MARN and Zoo Boise to strengthen El Salvador's rescue centers. Animal keepers from across the country came to a training led by Zoo Boise's wildlife care experts. There, keepers learned about the animals' basic social needs and acquired skills in enrichment and providing medical care. The wildlife involved saw immediate benefits. Now, more rescued animals enjoy humane conditions. **Thank you!**



HELP STOP ONE FOREST FIRE!

Ensure spider monkeys can stay in the wild

Black-handed spider monkeys are iconic and beloved animals in Central America's dry tropical forests. However, they have been devastated by poaching and habitat loss. Fewer than 200 remain in El Salvador, and in most parts of the country, these monkeys are extinct in the wild.

The remaining monkeys in southeastern El Salvador face an extreme threat from forest fires, which ignite when people allow hunting or farming fires to burn uncontrolled. The coming El Niño, which causes warmer, drier weather in Central America, is expected to make forest fires even worse in the next year. This could have devastating consequences for the black-handed spider monkeys and other dry forest animals.

But you can send rangers to advocate for responsible fire management and patrol the forest to stop fires and poachers. Your donation will create a safer future for these incredible but critically endangered primates!

Please give now to help protect some of El Salvador's last black-handed spider monkeys from forest fires and other threats.

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YES! I WANT TO HELP STOP ONE FOREST FIRE!

Yes! Please use my gift to help save critically endangered black-handed spider monkeys from one forest fire, and to support all the work of Paso Pacífico.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25 to help stop one forest fire
- \$50 to help stop one forest fire
- \$75 to help stop one forest fire
- \$_____ to help stop forest fires as much as I can!



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Give online: pasopacifico.org/stoponefire

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