

Nature has no borders. Neither does your impact.



International
Conservation
Fund of Canada

Two important questions that prospective donors ask:

1 There's so much nature to conserve in Canada. Why support conservation elsewhere?

You're right: Canada's forests, lakes and wildlife deserve our support.

But nature knows no boundaries. Are you seeing fewer barn swallows, nighthawks and chimney swifts than in years past? These aerial insectivores have been impacted by habitat loss in the Neotropics where they spend much of the year. We need to protect the places they and other migratory species need along their entire annual journey.

The climate connects us, too. Tropical forests store carbon and regulate water regimes across continents. Tropical deforestation accounts for about 95% of deforestation worldwide and is a large contributor to carbon emissions. Supporting conservation of tropical forests is one of the best ways to counter the climate change that is bringing longer wildfire seasons and harsher droughts in Canada.

Life on Earth is one connected web, and we are only beginning to understand what happens when its threads are cut. That makes where we act first so important. Canada's 369 million hectares of forest hold about 140 native tree species. A **single hectare** of the Chocó rainforest in Colombia and Ecuador can hold as many as 300, **twice as many as all of Canada**, along with thousands of plants found nowhere else. Protecting the tropics means protecting the richest part of the web we all depend on, including here at home.

Canada is also connected to these places through our economy. Tropical regions have played a big part in Canada's economic success. Canadian mining companies operate in more than 100 countries (notably in Latin America and Africa), with mining assets abroad [valued at \\$241 billion in 2024](#) — double domestic assets.

Their environmental impact is significant. Canadian energy companies are also active globally, with billions of dollars' worth of operations in tropical nations such as Colombia and Mexico. And the coffee we drink and many other goods we use come from tropical landscapes. ***Protecting them is an excellent way to give back.***

2 Will my gift make a difference where conservation may face added risks?

It's a fair question, and one Biome asks with every project it considers. We weigh conservation gains against cost and risk and ask how conservation gains will last long term.

Biome avoids government corruption and incompetence by working directly with local conservation organizations and communities who know the land and have a stake in its future. We work closely with our trusted field partner organizations and rely on them to maintain good relations with governments and local communities. Their local expertise includes an understanding of risks and how to mitigate them.

Conservation takes more than declaring a protected area on a map. While public protected areas are often under-financed, the private reserves that we support are well protected by local/regional conservation organizations. Biome's projects that protect landscape-scale areas (Indigenous territories; a large conservation concession; community-managed forests) have succeeded over decades.

We should add that laws and their enforcement, while often falling short of needs, do play an important role in conservation in developing countries. Conservation is not without risk anywhere, including Canada. In the tropics, risk is low in relation to the enormous benefits.

Biome's call to action:

Keep giving at home but consider applying at least **ten percent** of your conservation support internationally.

