

Mongabay

Annual Report 2024



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From the Founder and CEO



In 2024, we at **Mongabay** celebrated our **25th anniversary** by delivering a year of transformative achievements manifesting our unique role in **environmental journalism**. Amid this milestone, numerous accomplishments cemented Mongabay's position as a global leader in reporting on critical environmental issues.

These accomplishments include **attracting 74 million people to our recently redesigned news websites** and inspiring this global community to take action that halted the destruction of hundreds of thousands of hectares of rainforest and mobilized new financial support to local conservation organizations in need.

Recognition for these achievements came in many forms. **The Biophilia Award, one of several accolades we collected this year, highlighted our influence in bridging the gap between conservation science and public awareness.** A newsroom profile by the Columbia Journalism Review further validated Mongabay's reputation as a trailblazer in nonprofit journalism. The piece lauded our international presence — operating in six languages with contributors **across 80 countries** — and our ability to consistently uncover underreported stories. In a recent survey, 73% of contributing journalists stated their stories would have gone unpublished if not for Mongabay.

Our 25th anniversary celebration was marked by a **sold-out event featuring renowned primatologist Jane Goodall**. Her endorsement of our work was unequivocal. "If you really want to know the truth about a particular issue, go to Mongabay," she said, emphasizing our dual focus on exposing challenges and sharing solutions.

Amid these celebrations, we remained deeply focused on our core mission, and our **independent reporting** continued to drive tangible results across the globe. Mongabay first reported a secret deal to establish Mennonite colonies in Suriname, which prompted the **agricultural project's cancellation and avoided 535,000 hectares (1.3 million acres) of deforestation**. In Peru, an investigation into companies falsely claiming a U.N. endorsement to persuade Indigenous communities into **predatory carbon credit agreements** led to the termination of contracts and partnerships tied to the scheme. Meanwhile, our reporting on **timber laundering in the Brazilian Amazon** spurred federal investigations that led to arrests and the suspension of carbon credit projects linked to the scheme.

Mongabay's influence also extended to **corporate accountability**. A landmark investigation exposing fraudulent sustainability claims made by Brazil's second-largest palm oil exporter resulted in the suspension of its certification and intensified scrutiny of the sector.

"If you really want to know the truth about a particular issue, go to Mongabay."

Jane Goodall





The orange-eyed leaf tree frog . Image by Rhett A. Butler.

Internally, we underwent **significant introspection through an independent evaluation of our tropical forest coverage**. The findings affirmed our exceptional value, with respondents emphasizing our irreplaceable role in informing policy, **guiding professional decisions and amplifying Indigenous voices**. As one survey participant noted, “Mongabay is the one outlet that consistently covers rainforests, providing critical insights for decision-makers in philanthropy, government and the private sector.”

This year of progress underscores our resilience in an era when nonprofit journalism faces mounting challenges. By developing **innovative digital storytelling, fostering local journalism and holding powerful entities accountable**, we not only celebrated our past but also charted a bold path for our future. As we step into our next quarter-century, we do so with a renewed commitment to delivering transformative journalism that informs, inspires and improves change.

Rhett Butler

Rhett Butler

Mongabay Founder and CEO



Organizational Highlights



2024 was a year of notable growth, both in terms of staff and activities. Mongabay's team surpassed 100 members and launched multiple initiatives after years of development to deliver more innovative and diverse storytelling, from data journalism to fellowships and skill-building opportunities, to expanded reporting around the world.

A growing presence in Africa

Among the year's most notable developments was the expansion of Mongabay Africa, where we doubled the size of our team. This move exemplifies our commitment to elevating underreported stories, especially from regions most affected by environmental change, and bolstered our capacity to cover a continent often overlooked by international media.

New tools, new look

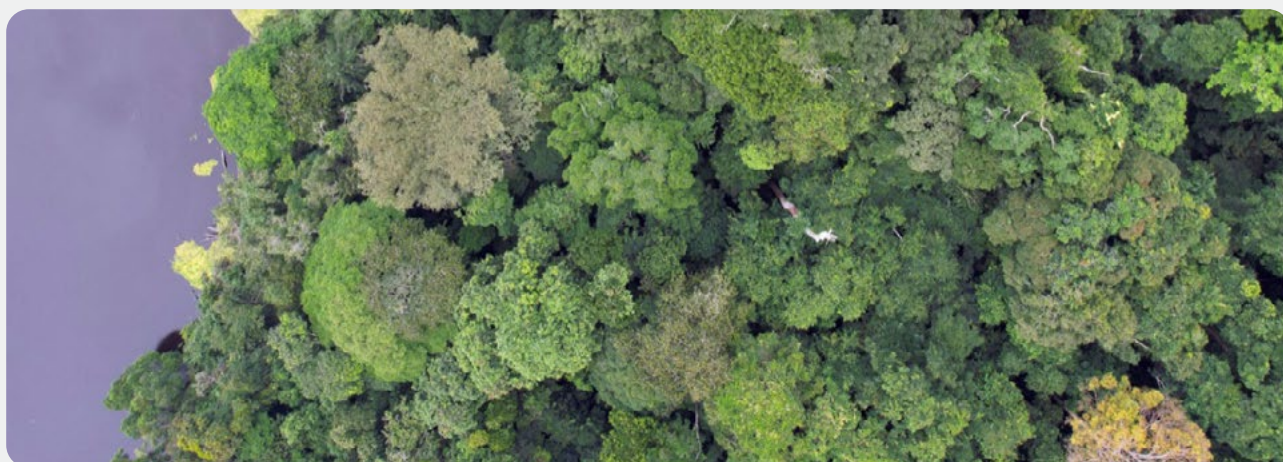
In early 2024, we debuted the Mongabay Data Studio, an initiative that leverages data-driven storytelling to deepen readers' understanding of complex environmental issues. The Data Studio aligns with a broader effort to diversify content formats, including the unveiling of our redesigned news site in July. The new site integrates features like enhanced search capabilities, thematic "Special Issues" and multimedia offerings. These capacities enabled Mongabay to publish a Special Issue on illegal airstrips in the Peruvian Amazon that used AI to visually search through satellite imagery and verify the information through investigative journalism.

More news in fewer words

Mongabay achieved a long-awaited milestone with the establishment of a short-form news program, the Newswire Desk, filling a critical gap in covering breaking developments. By producing concise, timely updates, we expanded our appeal to general-interest audiences without compromising our hallmark depth. Our venture into multimedia storytelling also gained momentum with the appointment of a Creative Director and Producer tasked with building our video, podcast and graphic production capabilities.

Supporting environmental journalists worldwide

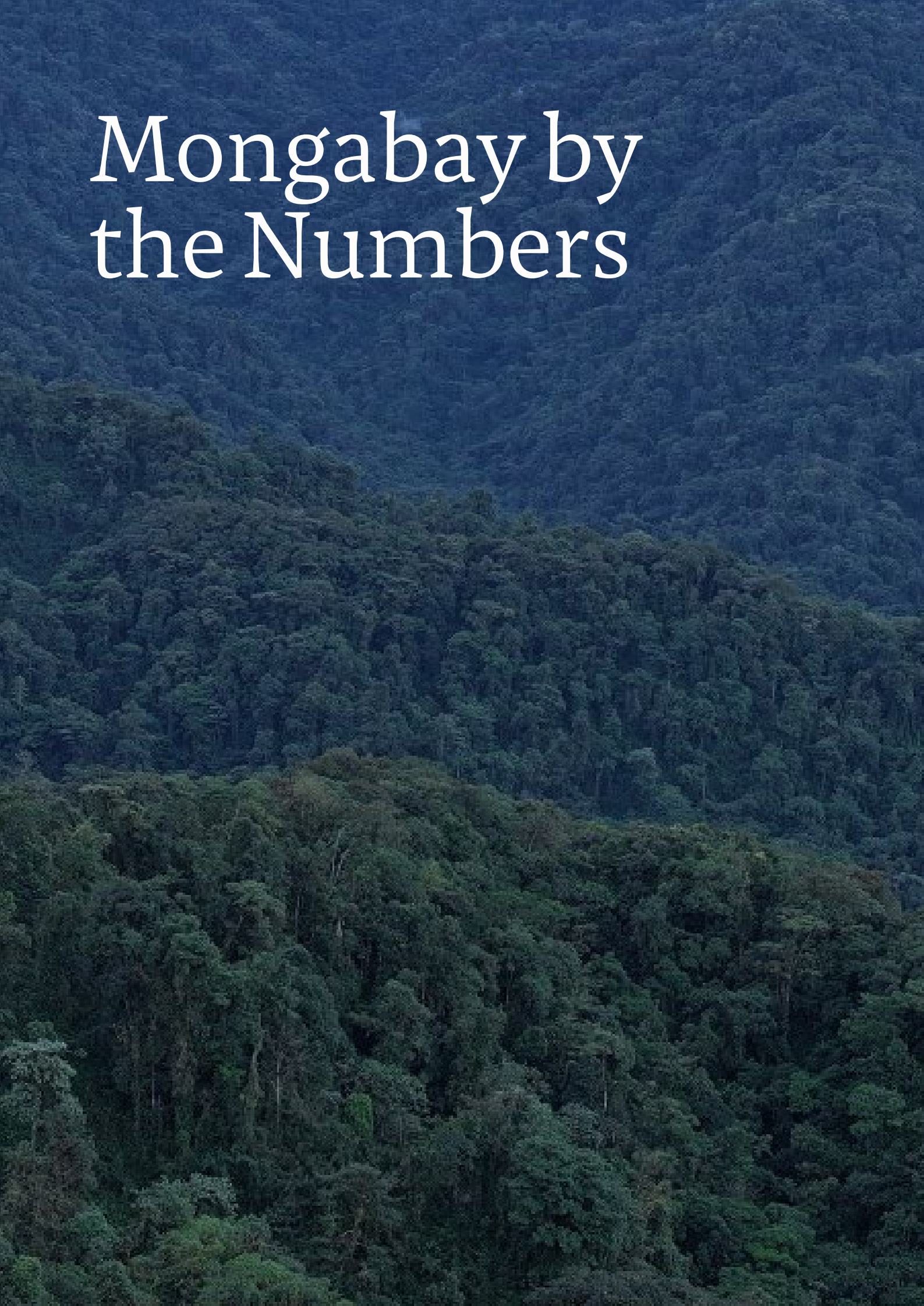
Our commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices and fostering local journalism was evident in the launch of a fellowship program in French for Francophone Africa, as well as a pilot initiative for Indigenous journalists in the Ecuadorian Amazon. These efforts reflect our long-standing dedication to inclusivity and ensuring that local perspectives remain at the heart of environmental reporting.



Ivindo River. Image by Rhett Butler.



Mongabay by the Numbers

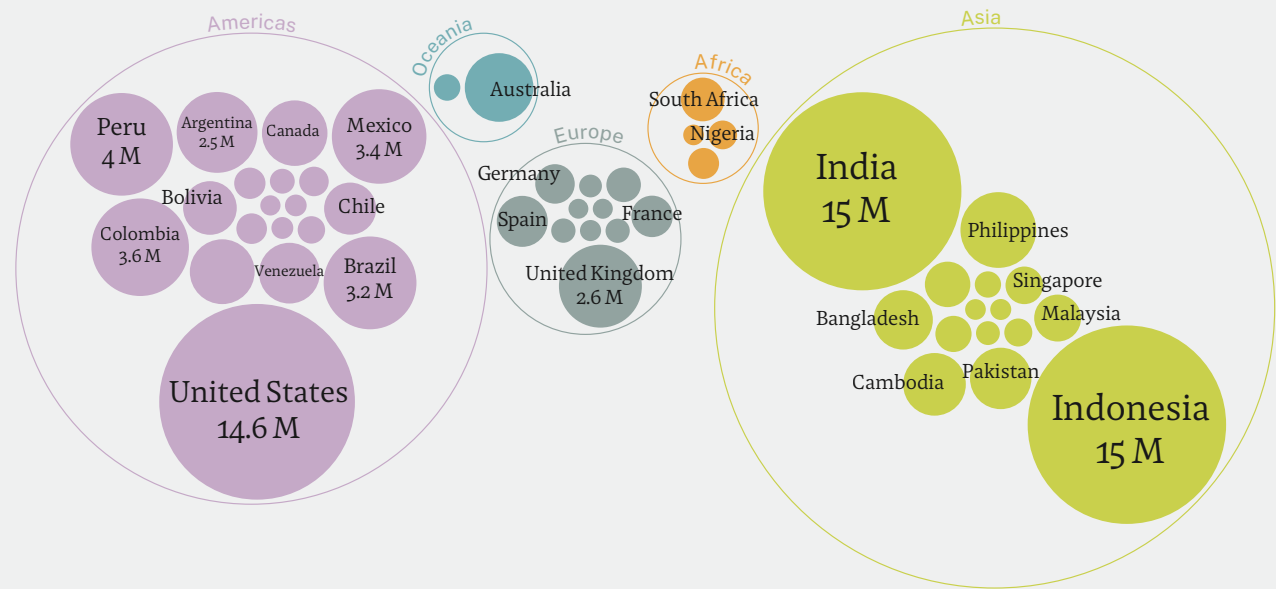


Mongabay is widely recognized as one of the top sources of news, information and analysis from Nature’s frontline. We publish original content in six different languages that reach millions of people worldwide.

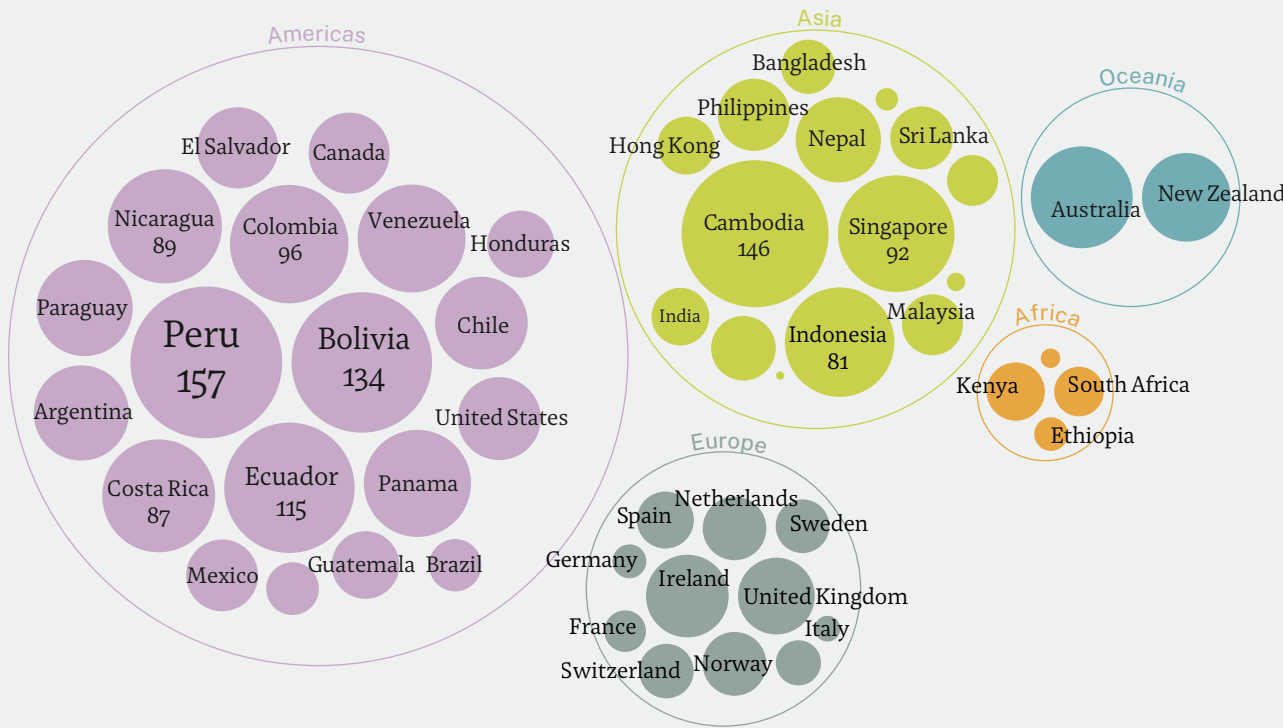
Our largest audiences are in high population countries where we produce the most coverage.

Website traffic – number of visitors to Mongabay websites

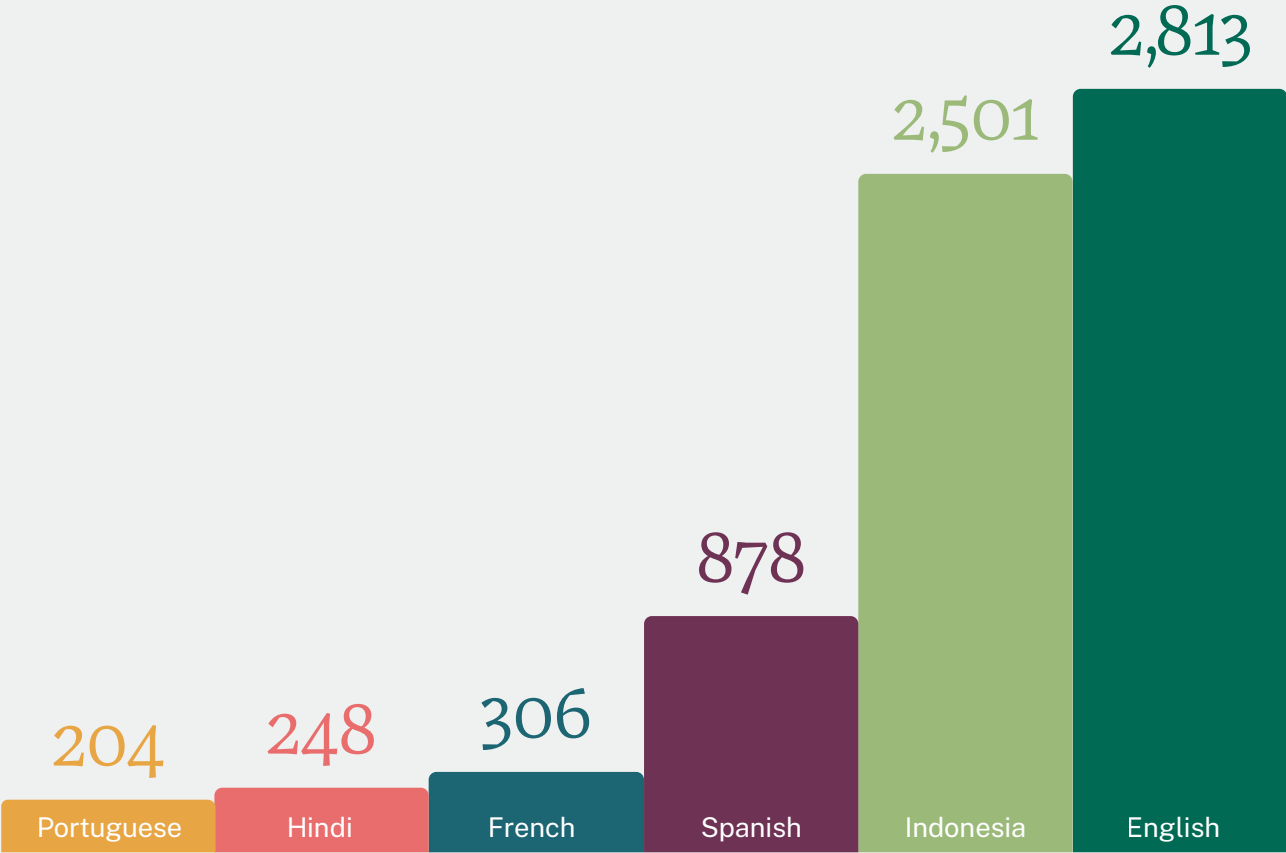
Impact often arises from quality engagement — not related to reach — in places where we have meaningful relationships with our audience.



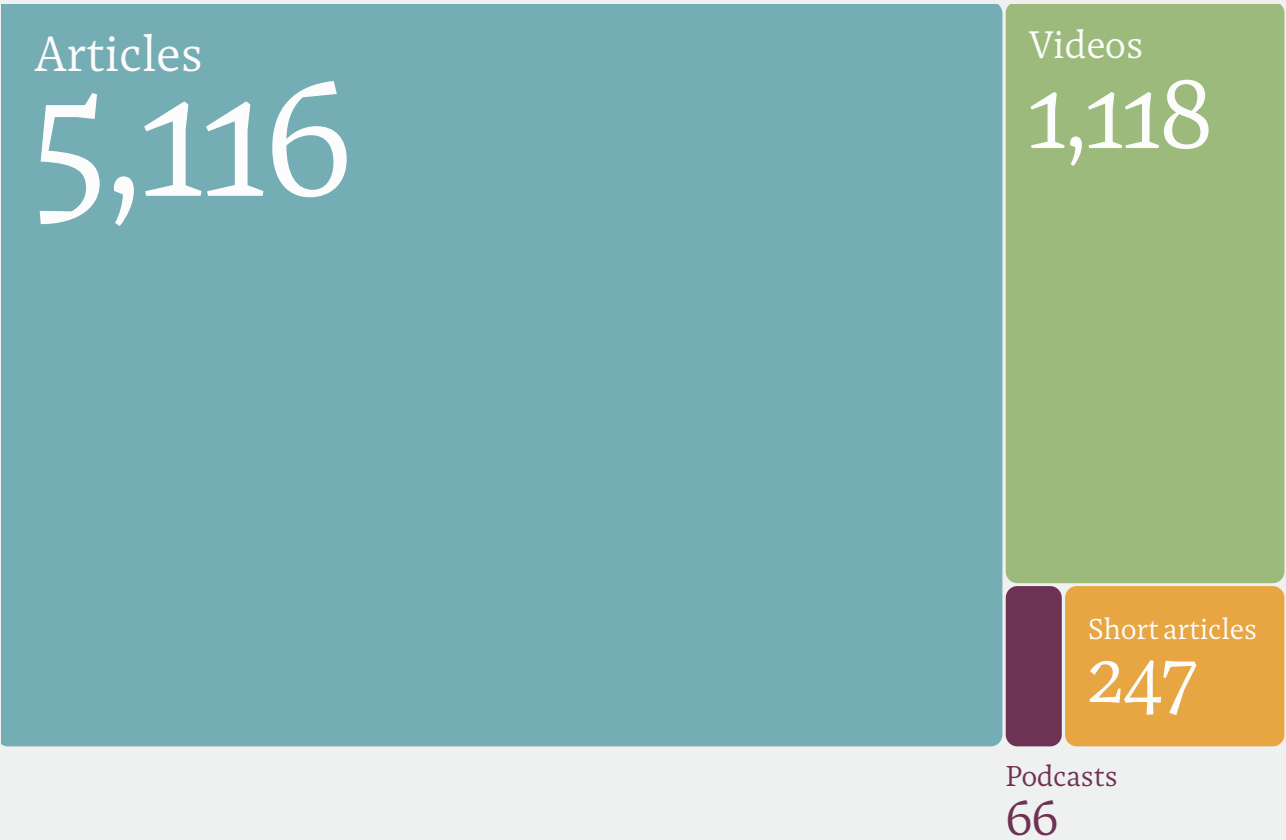
Audience reach -visitors to Mongabay websites per 1,000 internet users in each country



In 2024, Mongabay published more than **6,500** articles and videos in six languages.



Mongabay continues to diversify its storytelling formats, incorporating short-form articles, podcasts and videos.



A Global Community



Staff, Board and Advisers

Abhaya Raj Joshi

Staff Writer -Nepal, Mongabay

Abhishyant Kidangoor

Staff Writer and Video Producer, Mongabay

Abu Siddique

Contributing Editor -Bangladesh, Mongabay

Aditi Tandon

Senior Production Editor, Mongabay India

Aimee Gabay

Staff Writer -Indigenous News Desk,
Mongabay

Akhyari Hananto

Multimedia Manager, Mongabay Indonesia

Akita Arum Verselita

Data Analyst, Mongabay Indonesia

Alana Linderoth

Program Officer, Mongabay

Alec Bandzes

Philanthropy Manager, Mongabay

Alejandro Prescott-Cornejo

Senior Marketing Associate, Mongabay

Alex Shaw

Investigative Reporter and Researcher,
Mongabay

Alexa Vélez Zuazo

Managing Editor, Mongabay Latam

Alexandra Popescu

Contributing Editor -Latin America,
Mongabay

Alexandre de Santi

English Editor -Brazil, Mongabay

Ana Cristina Alvarado

Senior Staff Writer, Mongabay Latam

Andrés Alegría

Graphics Specialist, Mongabay

Antonio José Paz Cardona

Senior Contributing Editor, Mongabay
Latam

Arathi Menon

Senior Staff Writer, Mongabay India

Ashoka Mukpo

Staff Features Writer, Mongabay Africa

Astrid Arellano

Staff Reporter -Indigenous News Desk,
Mongabay Latam

Basten Gokkon

Senior Staff Writer, Mongabay Indonesia

Beverley Choo

Foundation Relations Assistant, Mongabay

Bobby Ann Bascomb

Newswire Editor, Mongabay

Carolyn Cowan

Staff Writer -Southeast Asia, Mongabay

Christophe Assogba

Africa French Editor, Mongabay Africa

Clio Di Giovanni

Africa Outreach and Content Coordinator,
Mongabay Africa

Dalia Medina

Digital Outreach Editor, Mongabay Latam

Daniel Pye

Investigations Editor, Mongabay

Dave Martin

Director of Philanthropy, Mongabay

David Akana

Program Manager Africa, Mongabay Africa

David Brown

Editor, Mongabay Kids

Didier Makal

Staff Writer -Central Africa, Mongabay
Africa

Dilrukshi Handunnetti

Editor -Sri Lanka, Mongabay

Dora Montero

Fellowship Spanish Editor, Mongabay Latam

Edward Carver

Staff Writer -Ocean Desk, Mongabay

Elizabeth Claire Alberts

Senior Staff Writer -Ocean Desk, Mongabay

Elodie Toto

Central Africa Staff Writer, Mongabay Africa

Emilia Delfino

Associate Editor, Mongabay

Erik Hoffner

Impact Editor, Mongabay

Fernanda Melchior Wenzel

Staff Writer -Brazil, Mongabay

Gerald (Gerry) Flynn

Features Writer -Southeast Asia, Mongabay

Glenn Scherer

Editor-at-large, Mongabay



S. Gopikrishna Warriar

Managing Editor, Mongabay India

Hagen Desa

India Video Production Coordinator,
Mongabay India

Hans Nicholas Jong

Senior Staff Writer, Mongabay Indonesia

Harry Jacques

Contributing Editor, Mongabay

Hayat Indriyatno

Senior Copy Editor, Mongabay

Hidayaturohman M. Suri

Multimedia Producer, Mongabay Indonesia

Isabel Esterman

Managing Editor -Southeast Asia,
Mongabay

Jeremy Hance

Senior Contributing Editor –Solutions
Desk, Mongabay

John Cannon

Staff Features Writer, Mongabay

Juan Maza Calleja

Video Production Coordinator, Mongabay

Julia Lemos Lima

Video Producer, Mongabay

Juliette Chapalain

Fellowship & Multimedia Editor, Mongabay
Africa

Karen Coates

Fellowship Editor, Mongabay

Karla Mendes

Features Writer, Mongabay

Kartik Chandramouli

Senior Digital Editor, Mongabay India

Kristine Sabillo

Wire Reporter, Mongabay

Kundan Pandey

Senior Editor, Mongabay India

Latoya Abulu

Editor -Indigenous News, Mongabay

Lemae Mortimer

Operations Coordinator, Mongabay

Lily Martin

Project Manager -Office of the CEO,
Mongabay

Liz Kimbrough

Staff Writer, Mongabay

Lucia Torres

Video Manager, Mongabay

Lusia Febriana Arumingtyas

Youth Outreach Officer, Mongabay
Indonesia

Maichue Khang

Operations Manager, Mongabay

Malavika Vyawahare

Staff Writer -Africa, Mongabay Africa

Manish Mishra

Assistant Editor, Mongabay India

María Ángeles Salazar

Content Production Manager, Mongabay

María Isabel Torres

Program Director, Mongabay Latam

Marina Tablas Martinez

Researcher -Solutions Desk, Mongabay

Maxwell Radwin

Staff Writer -Latin America, Mongabay

Mayra Castillo

Content Coordinator, Mongabay Latam

Megan Strauss

Editor, Mongabay Kids

Michelle Carrere

Senior Contributing Editor -Ocean Desk,
Mongabay Latam

Mike DiGirolamo

Audience Engagement Associate,
Mongabay

Morgan Erickson-Davis

Senior Editor, Mongabay

Nanditha Chandraprakash

Content Coordinator, Mongabay

Niko Dwi Wicaksana

Multimedia Producer, Mongabay Indonesia

Nivetha Muthumani

Accountant, Mongabay

Philip Jacobson

Senior Editor -Southeast Asia, Mongabay

Priyanka Shankar

Content Coordinator, Mongabay India

Rahmadi Rahmad

Senior Writer and Editor, Mongabay
Indonesia

Rebecca Kessler

Senior Editor –Ocean Desk, Mongabay



Renuka Kulkarni

Editorial Coordinator, Mongabay India

Rhett A. Butler

Founder and CEO, Mongabay

Richard Romero

Multimedia Producer, Mongabay Latam

Ridzki Sigit

Program Director, Mongabay Indonesia

Rohini Alamgir

Online Community Manager, Mongabay

Romina Castagnino

Associate Digital Editor and Host,
Mongabay

Salman Ghani

Financial Controller, Mongabay

Samantha Lee

Creative Director & Producer, Mongabay

Sandhya Sekar

Program Manager, Mongabay India

Sandy Watt

Video Producer, Mongabay

Sapariah Saturi

Managing Editor, Mongabay Indonesia

Saumitra Shinde

Social Media Coordinator, Mongabay India

Shailesh Shrivastava

Senior Editor, Mongabay India

Shanna Hanbury Lemos

Wire Reporter, Mongabay

Shreya Dasgupta

Newswire Editor, Mongabay

Simrin Sirur

Staff Writer, Mongabay India

Sonal Alvares

Development Assistant, Mongabay

Sonam Lama Hyolmo

Staff Writer -Indigenous News Desk,
Mongabay

Spoorthy Raman

Staff Writer -Mongabay

Suchibrata Borah

Program Coordinator, Mongabay

Terna Gyuse

Managing Editor -Africa, Mongabay Africa

Vanessa Romo

Research Editor, Mongabay Latam

Willie Shubert

VP of Programs and Executive Editor,
Mongabay

Xavier Bartaburu

Portuguese Editor -Brasil, Mongabay

Yannick Kenné

Staff Writer -West and Central Africa,
Mongabay Africa

Yvette Sierra Praeli

Senior Staff Writer, Mongabay Latam

Board of Directors**Holt Thrasher**

Board Chair and Treasurer

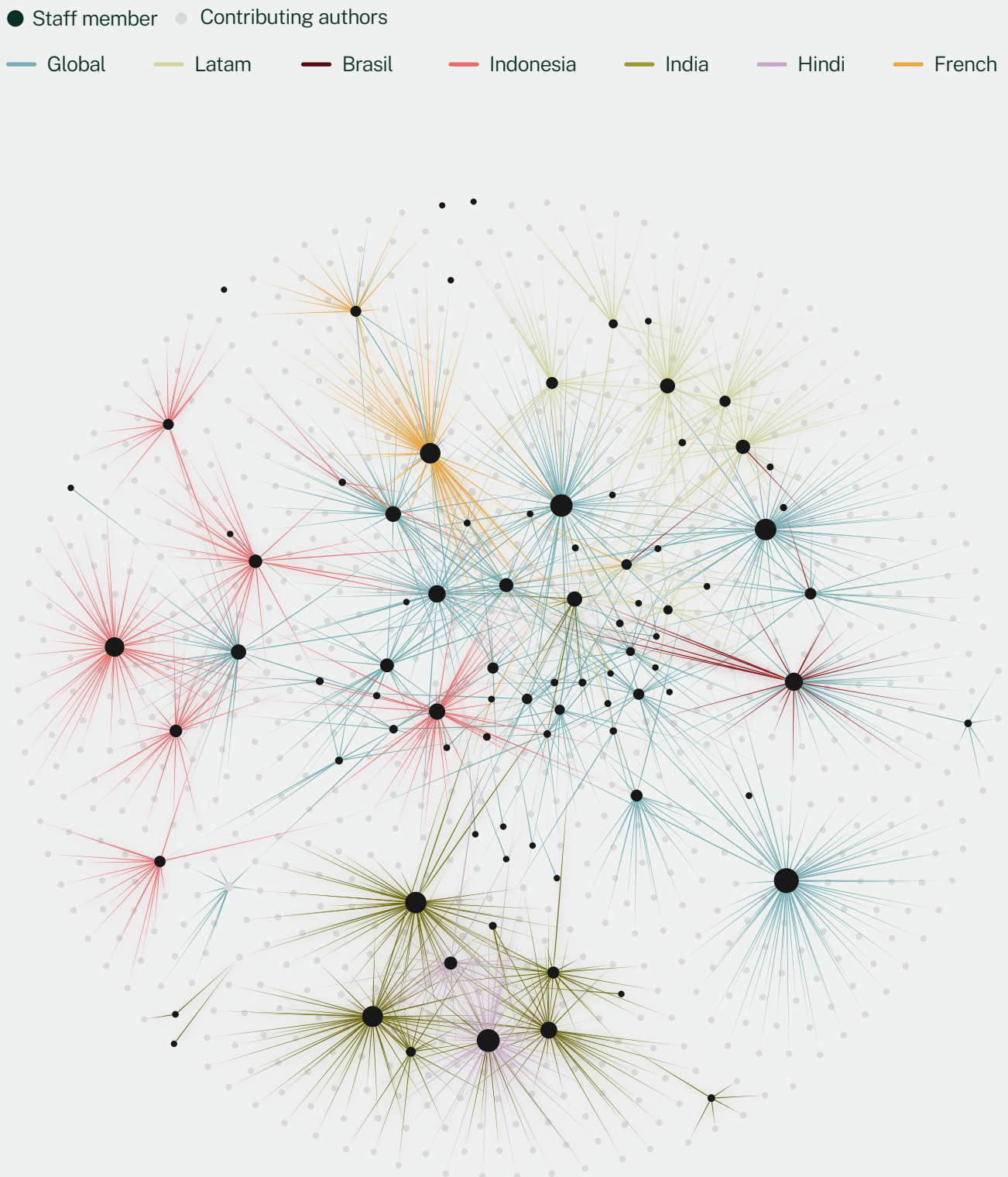
Debby Ng**Jeannie Sedgwick****Jeff Horowitz****Katie LaFleur****Kristin Rechberger****Mark Cappellano****Peter Riggs****Rhett A. Butler****Robin Martin****Steve McCormick****Steve Rhee****Tim Kelly****Winnie Lam****Advisory Council****Aida Greenbury****Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE****Dr. Peter Raven**

Contributor Network

Mongabay works with a global network of local journalists to produce its reporting.

In 2024, nearly 90 Mongabay staff worked directly with over 750 authors to publish content on nature and planetary challenges.

This graphic shows the network connections from across all of Mongabay's bureaus.



Mongabay Global



Mongabay's global news team experienced significant expansion, adding a dozen staff across multiple departments, including operations, development and editorial. This growth laid the groundwork for dedicated reporting desks focused on **oceans, Indigenous affairs, solutions journalism, investigations and short-form news** while also building momentum to launch a wildlife desk in 2025.

Mongabay continued diversifying its **storytelling formats, incorporating short-form articles, podcasts, videos and data visualizations**. Through strategic collaboration with regional contributors, Mongabay published **1,945 articles that attracted millions** of readers to its global English news platform. These stories not only increased public awareness but also influenced real-world outcomes, ranging from individual consumer choices to policy discussions, investment decisions and law enforcement actions against environmental crimes.

2024 coverage was extensive, both geographically and thematically. Key editorial themes included tropical forests, wildlife conservation, the energy transition, Indigenous rights, environmental defender protection, marine fisheries, coral reefs, planetary health, the circular economy and nature-based solutions addressing biodiversity loss, food security and climate change.

Mongabay's journalism received widespread recognition, earning prestigious awards such as the **BBVA Foundation's 5th Biophilia Award for Environmental Communication, the 2024 SEAL Award, two Developing Asia Journalism Awards and the Silver Award from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Global Prize** at the United Nations Correspondents Association, among others. Mongabay also expanded media partnerships, notably through the Global Indigenous Affairs Desk, which facilitated collaboration with Indigenous news outlets across the U.S., Canada and the Pacific Islands.



Iceberg off Antarctica. Image by Rhett A. Butler.



• IMPACT STORY

In July 2024, [Mongabay reported](#) on the efforts of ASASTRAN, an organization that works to preserve traditional midwifery and medicinal practices in Panama's remote Ngäbe-Buglé territory. ASASTRAN trains midwives and traditional medicine doctors to serve communities where access to hospitals is limited. They rely on endemic plants to aid pregnancy and childbirth, but deforestation and climate change threaten these resources.

To combat this, ASASTRAN cultivates medicinal plants on designated plots and seeks government support for conservation. The organization has trained over 200 practitioners, providing essential care in areas with high maternal mortality rates. Despite limited funding, their volunteer-based model underscores the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge into healthcare.

Following Mongabay's article, the CEO of Phalarope, an organization that aims to advance health care and community development in Panama and Guatemala, expressed interest in meeting with and providing financial and clinical training for the ASASTRAN.

Also, after reading the article, a researcher at Human Rights Watch plans to meet the members of ASASTRAN in 2025 to discuss development strategies for the group as well as financing to develop the facilities and provide medical training for midwives.



Matilde Amador, an ASASTRAN midwife, holds a plant known as the “regulator” that is used during childbirth and labor. Image by Adam Williams.

Mongabay Brasil



In 2024, Mongabay's Brazil-based news team published award-winning reporting that exposed critical issues threatening the Amazon Rainforest and other critical biomes, such as the Cerrado and Atlantic Forest. Our multilingual coverage documented the growing presence of **criminal organizations operating at the nexus of drug trafficking, illegal logging and illegal mining**. For instance, a yearlong investigation revealed a connection between the illegal cattle ranching boom in the [Arariboia Indigenous Territory](#) and a record-high number of killings of Indigenous Guajajara people.

Our Amazon coverage included many news stories about the consecutive extreme droughts. In 2024, droughts were exceptionally severe, impacting local communities through disruptions to transportation, fishing and access to clean water. Other coverage elevated the socioenvironmental impacts of [lithium mining](#), the deadly effects of a [rain of pesticides](#) released from a pulpwood company in Espírito Santo state and how a wind farm [erased a fishing village](#) on the Ceará coast. In the frontier between the Cerrado and the Amazon, Mongabay showed how Sorriso, Brazil's soybean capital, established an agricultural apartheid, [dividing the city into two](#): the luxury neighborhoods of the farmers on one side of the road, the slums and pesticide-ruined crops of the local communities on the other.

Despite these threats, stories of resilience and restoration equally made headlines, [such as the Guajajara people restoring the forest](#) along crucial headwaters in the Rio Pindaré Indigenous Territory or the [Maxakali people's](#) initiative to restore the Atlantic Forest in their barren territory. Mongabay also reported on communities in the Bailique Archipelago adapting to the [changing water dynamics](#) and scientists installing artificial canopy bridges over highways in the [Waimiri-Atroari Indigenous Territory](#).

The quality and depth of reporting was recognized with an [honorable mention](#) at the Banrisul ARI Journalism Award, [second place](#) in the text category of Brazil's National Federal Prosecutor's Journalism Prize and included in the [Gabo Award shortlist](#).



Guardians of the Forest pose in front of posters featuring killed guardians Janildo Guajajara (top) and Paulo Paulino Guajajara (bottom). The posters say, "State agents are complicit in violence against Indigenous peoples" and "More than 500 years of genocide against Indigenous peoples. No more murders!" Image by Ingrid Barros for Mongabay.



● IMPACT STORY

In May 2024, [Mongabay published an analysis](#) that uncovered irregularities in two REDD+ carbon credit projects in the Brazilian Amazon that found possible connections to timber laundering. Before the analysis, forest management plans had already been suspended in the areas over the same issue. The projects were managed by a high-profile carbon credit seller in Brazil, who had generated millions through sales to major corporations, including a South American airline, a global food and beverage giant, a multinational electronics firm, a leading music streaming platform, a major aerospace manufacturer, and a top professional services firm.

Two weeks after the publication revealed that the carbon credit projects were located in areas used to launder illegal timber, the Brazilian Federal Police launched the “Greenwashing Operation” against the group named in Mongabay’s investigation. The Federal Police confirmed the findings and when Mongabay reporter Fernanda Wenzel spoke with the federal deputy in charge of the investigation, he said the story encouraged him and his team to continue their work, because it showed they were on the right track.

Following the police [raid](#) on the carbon projects, the value of two investment funds containing assets from the named company plummeted, as these were backed by credits generated by the projects, and Verra –one of the world’s largest voluntary carbon market registries – [suspended the projects](#).

By August, the Federal Public Ministry [cited](#) our reporting in an [announcement](#) that recommended suspension of all ongoing and future REDD+ and carbon credit projects on Indigenous and traditional territories in the state of Amazonas. As of November 2024, the Federal Public Ministry of the state had filed a lawsuit against Amazonas state demanding the suspension of a set of REDD+ projects being developed on state lands. The lawsuit mentions Mongabay’s reporting three times.



Logging activity in the Brazilian state of Rondônia, with trees already tagged and waiting for transportation. Image courtesy of Vicente Sampaio/Imaflora.



Mongabay Indonesia



Mongabay Indonesia produced more than **1,550 articles in 2024** centered around key environmental issues, including wildlife conservation, land use changes, energy transition, Indigenous rights, local community livelihoods and coastal-marine sustainability. **We closely monitored the country's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.** Recognizing the need to strengthen environmental journalism, the team emphasized collaboration between media, civil society organizations and academic institutions to enhance journalists' capacities, particularly in covering complex issues like the energy transition. For instance, Mongabay Indonesia reported extensively on biomass energy — promoted as an alternative to coal — as a potential driver of deforestation.

The Indonesia bureau also covered the **impact of infrastructure projects on Indigenous communities and local populations.** News detailed the social and environmental consequences of dam construction, geothermal power plants and natural forest conversion. Specific cases included community opposition to geothermal projects in Poco Leok (East Nusa Tenggara), Buru Island (Maluku), Padarincang (Banten) and Muara Laboh (South Sumatra). Another significant investigation focused on the Orang Rimba, a nomadic tribe in Jambi, whose traditional lands were cleared for plantations and mining.

The news produced also highlighted inspiring initiatives. Stories featured local communities engaged in sustainable practices, such as oyster cultivation in Aceh, wetland forest restoration by youth groups in Central Kalimantan and sustainable fishing practices among Balinese fishermen. The team also reported on the discovery of **new reptile, bird and fish species** and **photographed a sighting of the Tapanuli orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*), the world's rarest ape.**

Youth engagement and skill building was another priority throughout the year. In collaboration with universities and youth organizations, **Mongabay Indonesia helped train nearly 1,000 participants** on how to produce environmental news articles and multimedia stories.

Overall, Mongabay Indonesia's work in 2024 played a crucial role in exposing environmental threats, amplifying Indigenous voices and promoting sustainable solutions while fostering a new generation of environmental journalists.



The Padarincang community stages a protest against the geothermal project. Image by Irfan Maulana/ Mongabay Indonesia.



● IMPACT STORY

Within the past two decades, the forest biomass industry has been booming despite scientists' warnings over the industry's harm to the climate and its contribution to deforestation — increasingly in the tropics. In 2024, Mongabay Indonesia reported extensively about this practice, including in Indonesia's Gorontalo province. There, our [investigative reporting](#) called attention to the existence of two palm oil companies that after their forest cutting permits were revoked, reapplied under the nation's energy plantation forest scheme. In mid-August, Mongabay visited the area to ground truth satellite imagery indicating deforestation and documented firsthand the activities of the companies. By September, Mongabay Indonesia released another [report](#) (also adapted into [English](#)) detailing the opaque activities of the wood pellet processing company in Gorontalo that was sourcing raw materials from both companies.

The wood pellets being produced were destined for burning by biomass energy plants in East Asia, most likely Japan or South Korea. Collectively, the reportage raised alarms about environmental and regulatory violations, and additional international media coverage, including by the Associated Press, shortly followed. The investigation also [prompted the company to send a letter of denial](#). Soon after these publications, local authorities and industry groups convened to address the issues, when the Regional Leadership Coordination Forum (Forkopimda) and the Indonesian Biomass Energy Producers Association (APREBI) held a Forum Group Discussion. Indonesia's Law Enforcement Agency (Balai Gakum) in Sulawesi also reportedly plans to investigate the alleged illegally sourced pellets revealed by Mongabay's report, and several NGOs, including The Center of Economic and Law Studies (CELIOS), used the report in their research. The reports also sparked discussions in Jakarta hosted by NGOs including Forest Watch Indonesia, Trend Asia, and CELIOS.

The impact extended well beyond Indonesia. In late 2024, [South Korea announced](#) a sweeping change to its biomass subsidy policy. Beginning in January 2025, subsidies would no longer be granted for new biomass energy projects or for existing state-owned plants that burn biomass with coal. In addition, existing government financial support for dedicated biomass plants using imported biomass would be reduced, while support for privately owned co-firing plants would be phased out entirely over the following decade.



Natural forests cleared in Gorontalo for HTE. Image by FWI.



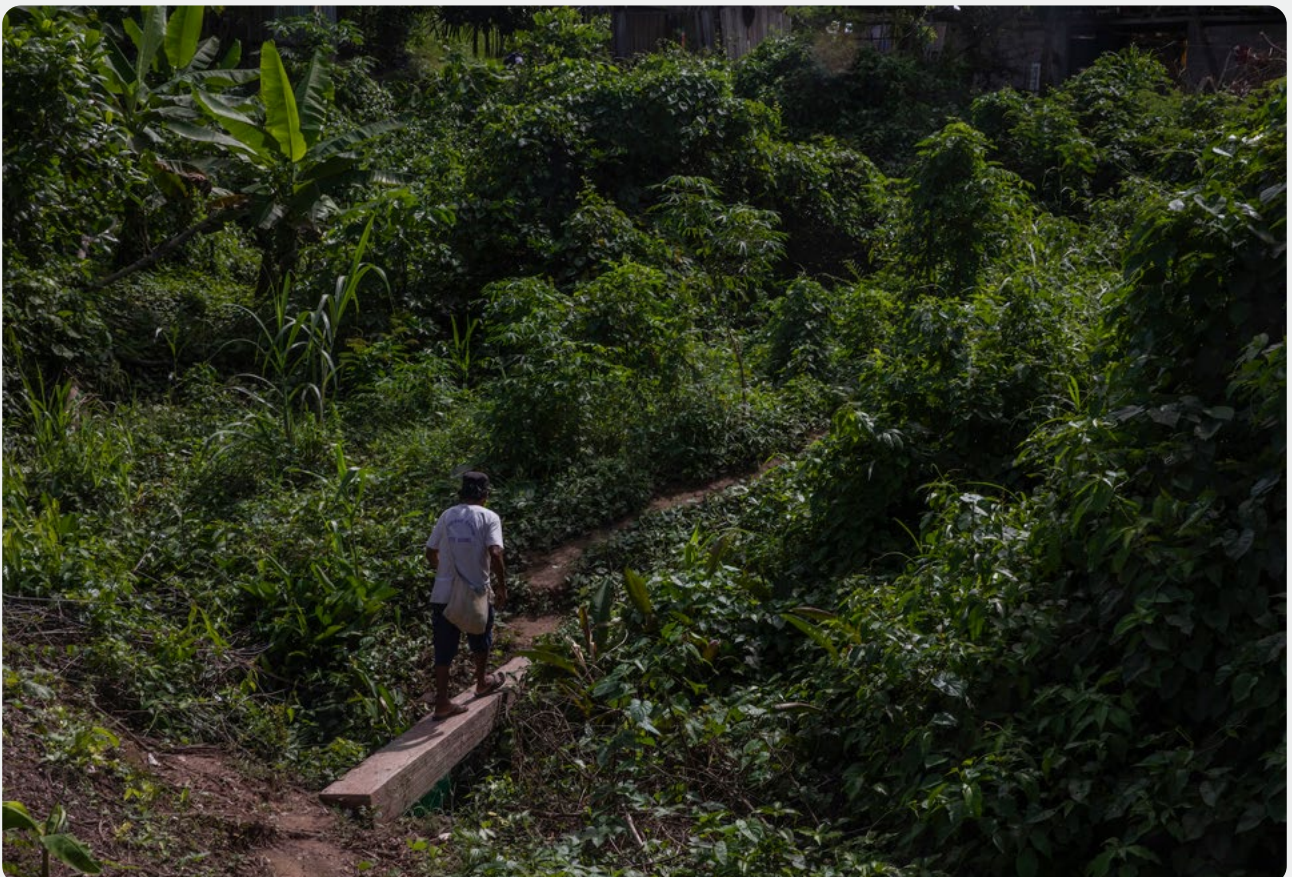
Mongabay Latam



In 2024, Mongabay Latam built upon its position as an innovative and influential regional outlet covering environmental issues in Latin America. Working with a network of **90 Spanish-speaking journalists**, the team published more than **750 stories** along with nearly **200 videos** and **40 podcasts**.

One of Mongabay Latam's key achievements in recent years has been to use innovative tools to fill the huge gaps in official and public information that exist in the region. In 2024, in a partnership with Earth Genome, Mongabay used an artificial intelligence search tool to locate clandestine drug trafficking airstrips in Indigenous communities and protected natural areas in the Peruvian Amazon. This tool opens a new field of research in the Amazon to understand the complexity of organized crime in these areas and its impact on vulnerable populations and fragile ecosystems.

The quality of our stories continues to have real-world impact within the region. In 2024, our reporting not only was used to initiate judicial and police action, but Mongabay journalists were invited on several occasions by Colombian, Paraguayan and Panamanian congressional representatives to present on the magnitude of crimes such as the shark fin trade, the expansion of illegal economies, the advance of deforestation caused by Mennonite communities or the lack of policies to deal with the region's climate-displaced people. The coverage also received high recognition from the Pulitzer Center, the Inter-American Press Association, the Walter Reuter German Journalism Prize and the Global Investigative Journalism Network, among others. In 2024, Mongabay strengthened our strategy of alliances with Spanish-language media in the region, consolidating partnerships with 90 media outlets with regional, national and local coverage in 15 countries.



Illegal economies like drug trafficking are hidden in the depths of the central rainforest. Image by Mongabay Latam.



● IMPACT STORY

A [collaborative investigation](#) by Mongabay Latam and CIPER revealed that a major Chilean mining company attempted to bypass environmental regulations in the protected Salar de Surire Natural Monument, a critical breeding ground for three threatened flamingo species. The National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) accused the company of violating environmental restrictions, including unauthorized mineral extraction and creating artificial lagoons, leading to a complete reproductive failure of flamingos in the 2022–2023 season. For this investigation, a team of journalists analyzed a leak of more than one million emails sent between mining company executives and official documents to confirm that a plan was underway between the mining company and former CONAF officials to relax the restrictions established with environmental permits and allow the company to extract ulexite –a mineral that produces boric acid and is used as a fertilizer –within prohibited areas.

While the company denied these allegations, attributing them to misinterpretations by current CONAF leadership, evidence showed that the company had operated in unauthorized zones, used heavy machinery against agreements, and potentially influenced officials with bribes. Local Aymara communities also expressed concerns over environmental damage and lack of participation in decision-making processes.

After Mongabay published the investigation, officials from the National Defense Council (CDE) visited the Salar de Surire and met with a team from CONAF to gather information on the operations of the mining company. Sources within CONAF confirmed with Mongabay Latam that the article put pressure on the CDE, which at the time of publication had launched an internal investigation into the relationship between officials and the mining company. Four months following Mongabay's investigation, the CDE sued the company for causing continuous, cumulative, permanent and irreparable environmental damage to the Surire salt flat. At the same time, the Superintendence of the Environment launched an investigation into the possible damage to the salt flat.



Quiborax facilities on the Surire salt flat. Image by Diego Figueroa / Migrar Photo



Mongabay India



In 2024, Mongabay India broadened the reach of its stories, engaging diverse groups from grassroots communities to regional policymakers, publishing more than 500 articles and 100 videos in English and Hindi. This content served more than 30 million people with accurate and credible environmental journalism.

Among the hundreds of stories told, Mongabay India produced multipart Special Issues on two key environmental topics that drive the Indian economy: [Indigenous knowledge](#) systems and the role of local communities in the sustainable conservation of natural capital, and the second, on climate-conscious [innovations](#) in agriculture and small-industry clusters. Our reporting also underscored the environment's vital connection to human and ecological systems. We told stories with intersectional themes such as the impact of climate change on [sports](#), [climate anxiety](#), and youth [education](#).

Similarly, the Mongabay India “[Environomy](#)” podcast series looked at the intersection of environment, economics and the Indian middle class over the past 30 years, since India's economic liberalization. The podcast broke new ground in the coverage of the environment from an economics perspective in the Indian media space. A second podcast, “[Wild Frequencies](#),” covered the theme of bioacoustics and its application of soundscapes in wildlife monitoring and conservation.

Mongabay India expanded collaboration with various regional media outlets to further amplify environmental news in different geographies and languages. The Hitavada, one of the oldest English dailies in central India, compiles Mongabay India stories into a bimonthly “environmental digest,” while Keraleeyam, a Malayalam platform, adapts Mongabay India content. Working with the social impact group Asar, Mongabay India collaborated with Baimanus, a Marathi media portal to work with grassroots reporters and produce climate and gender stories in the third-most spoken language in India.

Members of the team also strengthened journalist capacity through workshops, masterclasses and training sessions, equipping reporters with tools for impactful environmental storytelling. The team garnered prestigious awards and recognitions for its contributions to environmental journalism, including but not limited to the Greenaccord International Media [Award](#) and the Vasundhara Mitra [award](#) at the Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival 2024.



Bricks arranged in a zigzag pattern in the kiln. This increases the length of the airflow path, improving combustion and heat transfer rates. Image by Manish Chandra Mishra/Mongabay.



● IMPACT STORY

On multiple accounts, news produced by Mongabay India elicited legal measures. In July [Mongabay reported](#) on plans to build five-star hotels in the vicinity of Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve – a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to the one-horned rhinoceros and other wild species. There the developments, particularly in Inle Pothar, which is a crucial wildlife corridor and traditional farmland, threaten to disrupt animal movements and displace Indigenous farmers. Following publication, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), a statutory body in India established in 2010 to deal exclusively with environmental cases, registered a *suo motu* action in response to the article.

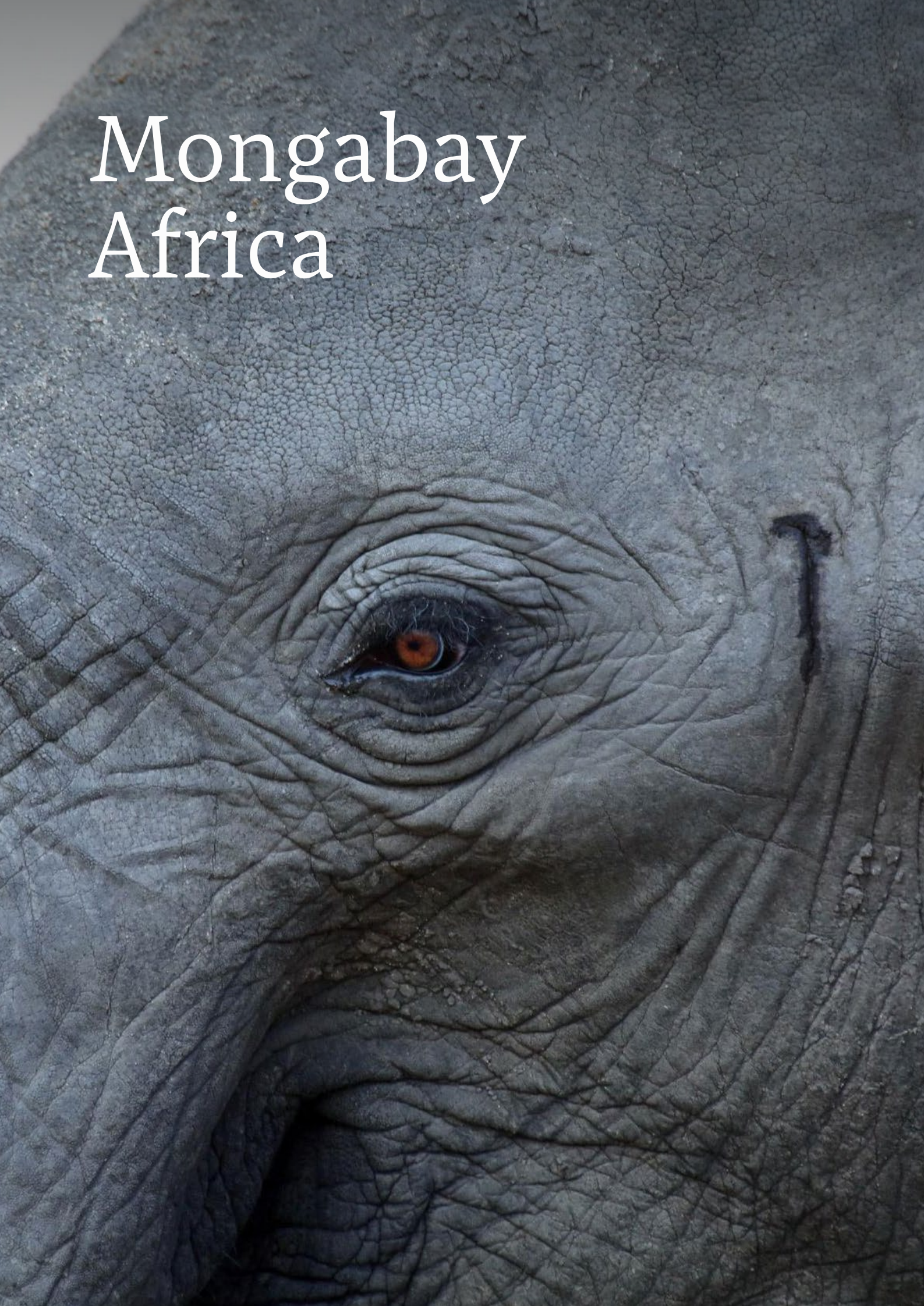
Similarly, the NGT took up a *suo moto* case based on a [Mongabay article](#) about the growing threats to Manipuri ponies, which was then listed for a hearing. In Manipur, these ponies are not only integral to the origins of the modern game of polo, but are also deeply embedded in the region's cultural traditions. Despite their importance, Manipuri ponies are under threat as their grazing grounds and natural habitats are being encroached by infrastructure development projects. These activities are pushing the ponies out of their habitat, making them more susceptible to road accidents and deaths due to plastic consumption. In 2016 the government launched a conservation policy for the ponies, but tangible actions have been minimal and infrastructure projects, notably the dredging of Lamphelpat wetlands, have continued to impact essential grazing areas.



Adult rhinos with a calf inside the Kaziranga National Park. Image by Diganta Talukdar via [Wikimedia Commons](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0).



Mongabay Africa



Mongabay Africa published more than 500 articles and 50 videos in [French](#) and English in 2024 that focused on a wide range of critical environmental issues in Africa. In line with our plans to expand our network in the Congo Basin, we placed the spotlight on topics such as [mining](#) and energy transition in the [Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#), industrial agriculture in Cameroon and carbon markets in the Republic of Congo, among others.

Creating inspiring content and expanding our influence are central to the strategy we adopted to broaden our work in Africa in 2023. Staying consistent with this strategy, we examined and published content in 2024 from a solutions-oriented perspective, while at the same time remained committed to producing rigorous investigations that exposed troubling practices across the continent. For example, putting fishery observers on boats is a potential solution for illegal fishing. However, in Ghana, Mongabay reporting on the [death of a fishery observer](#) highlighted their vulnerability, which prompted advocacy for stronger protections from industry regulators. Related measures were approved at the last meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in November 2024.

Our efforts aimed to enhance awareness, transparency and accountability, contributing to positive changes in business practices, government and civil society actions, policies and regulations. The growing influence of our reporting reflected in the number of republications in key national, regional and international media throughout 2024. Also, multiple team members received international recognition for their work. [Rivonala Razafison](#), a long-standing reporter for Mongabay Africa, won the prestigious Silver Award from Prince Albert II of Monaco and the UNCA Global Prize for his reporting on oceans and climate change. An [article published](#) in 2023 by Mactilda Mbenywe on how Kenya's Lake Victoria floods leave orphaned children to run their households was a finalist for the [Save the Children Global Media Awards](#) in 2024.

Mongabay Africa's impact is growing beyond its editorial work; a significant part of our programming focuses on preparing new generations of science writers. In 2024, we trained [12 French-language fellows in environmental journalism](#). Not only did we hire one of them, but many of the fellows have also become regular contributors to Mongabay from their respective countries.



Sulfur on the ground in Dikuluwe. Image by Didier Makal/Mongabay.



● IMPACT STORY

Mongabay reported on a Canadian-South African mining company faced with accusations of acquiring mining rights without proper consultation and illegal actions in the Walikale territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There, Indigenous communities claim their land is being illegally occupied, but despite years of complaints from Banamwesi and Motondo villagers, the company has denied any wrongdoing and refused to acknowledge them as affected stakeholders. However, Mongabay's reporting revealed inconsistencies in the company's acquisition of mining permits, suggesting violations of legal procedures.

Following our interview and probing questions to the mining company's consultation agency, the managing director of the company told Mongabay that he would tell his community development team to speak with community representatives. Shortly thereafter, Mongabay confirmed that the company did in fact plan a meeting with five customary land owners from Banamwesi and Motondo in eastern DRC. A civil society source who has been working with these communities for the past seven years told Mongabay that this would be the first time that the company is using official channels to engage with the impacted Indigenous communities.



The community monitoring team inspecting forests in Walikale. Image courtesy of a local source.

Mongabay Investigations



Mongabay published in-depth investigations on issues that are critical to our mission. Our reporting revealed evidence of ecosystem destruction and its effects on people around the world, showcasing the importance of Mongabay's impact-driven journalism model in protecting our planet.

Some of our more notable contributions during the year included an exposé of **two criminal gangs in Indonesia that had managed to kill multiple rhinos over several years in one of the world's most heavily guarded protected areas**, a story about a **notorious land-grabber in the Brazilian Amazon** who used relatives and an employee as fronts to dodge environmental fines and lawsuits, and **whistleblower accounts from inside a luxury hunting concession** at the center of environmental and human rights concerns in Tanzania, where the **Maasai have faced large-scale forced eviction**. In the DRC, we detailed how the **cobalt industry is causing widespread harm that disproportionately affects women, including deaths, infant health issues, crop destruction, water contamination and forced relocations**.

Other notable stories included a two-part investigation into **Angkor Plywood, a Cambodian firm that had been illegally exporting rare tree species from protected areas like Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary to Vietnam and China**; and a deep dive into how companies falsely claiming U.N. endorsement had persuaded Indigenous communities in Peru, Bolivia and Panama to give up rights to more than 9.5 million hectares (23.5 million acres) of forests, promising jobs and development in return.



In June 2024, stacks of timber were seen outside Angkor Plywood's Kandal province factory, where Nature Flooring believed the company has a sustainable timber plantation. Image by Gerald Flynn / Mongabay.



Delivering News to Diverse Audiences





Video

Mongabay published more than 1,400 videos across its website and social media platforms, accumulating more than 29 million views, 23 million sessions and 19 million total users. This represents an increase of 9% in views, almost 20% in sessions and 18% in users, compared with the previous year, reflecting the growing impact of Mongabay's strategy to prioritize quality over quantity in video production. These videos range from a solutions-oriented story on [a Cameroonian project that's creating biochar from banana peels](#) to a complex firsthand story about child marriages in Jakarta's fishing communities becoming an increasingly common response to poverty and declining fish stocks. One of the most popular short-form videos depicted a baby manatee rescue operation in the Amazon, which informed viewers that low water levels in rivers are due to extreme drought conditions in the rainforest region.

Increasing accessibility, Mongabay's video content also gained prominence with a dedicated section on our website allowing users to discover and watch videos that include the transcripts. Mongabay's visuals team expanded significantly in 2024, with staff strengthening in Africa and India as well as new roles specialized in producing longer-form news shows and short-form vertical video content joining Mongabay Global.



Chasing Deforestation: Investigating illegal deforestation in the world's most biodiverse regions.



Mongabay Explains: Clarifying issues in climate, environment, and biodiversity.





Podcast

Mongabay's podcast program reached new milestones in 2024, exemplified best by the winning of its first award, an Indigenous Media Award for Best Coverage of Indigenous Communities, and a shift in format that welcomed a new contract co-host to interview guests alongside our current host and discuss these conversations together, which brought fresh dimension to what has been published during the year.

Nearly 90,000 downloads and views on YouTube were the result of this effort to discuss new science, debate hot environmental topics with authors and reporters and share inspiring stories of ecological restoration, the latter of which were consistently among the year's most popular episodes. The special Mongabay Explores series focused on the circular economy, in support of the organization's overall reporting on the topic, and the team also helped the Mongabay Afrique team launch its new French-language podcast.

Notable guests:

Jane Goodall

Mohamed Nasheed, Former President of the Maldives

Amitabh Behar, Executive Director of Oxfam International

Kiliii Yüyan, National Geographic photographer

Murrawah Maroochy Johnson, 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize winner

“If you really want to know the truth about a particular issue, go to Mongabay.”

Jane Goodall



Data Studio

In early 2024, we launched Mongabay Data Studio, an initiative that leverages data-driven storytelling to deepen readers' understanding of complex environmental issues. The Data Studio aligns with a broader effort to diversify content formats, including the unveiling of our redesigned news site in July. The new site integrates features like enhanced search capabilities, thematic "Special Issues" and multimedia offerings. These capacities enabled Mongabay to publish a Special Issue on illegal airstrips in the Peruvian Amazon that used AI to visually search through satellite imagery and verify the information with investigative journalism.

In addition to our work developing novel journalism methods, Mongabay published hundreds of original maps and charts that provide context and evidence for our news reports and videos on issues ranging from deforestation to illegal fishing. The Data Studio is a culmination of years of incremental work to create data-inspired stories, develop tools that make our visualizations more accessible and consistent and build a community of capable partners to bring novel evidence of environmental change to people who can use it.

Journalism Tools

Mongabay is developing visualization tools designed to empower journalists to create stories backed by accurate data sources.



Earth Atlas



Trade Flow
Map



Reforestation.app



Fire Weather
Almanac





Translations

In 2024, Mongabay continued strengthening the relationship between the different regional bureaus and making an effort to reach audiences in their local languages. In addition to the original reporting in English, Spanish, Indonesian, Brazilian Portuguese, Hindi and French, Mongabay translated more than 1,000 articles by working with a team of external translators and the support of bilingual staff. Additionally, Mongabay's content was translated and published by other media outlets into Chinese, Dutch and German, among others.



Man carrying rice stalks wearing a rice hat. Image by Rhett A. Butler.



Mongabay Education





Fellowships

In 2022, Mongabay launched a **program that provides professional opportunities** for early-career journalists from tropical countries. The fellowship honors Y. Eva Tan's passion for equality among all human beings and the conservation of natural habitats by supporting 12 early-career journalists each year to publish original reporting in Spanish and English. Each fellow reports on critical environmental issues and gains valuable training, experience and credibility to help them advance their careers in journalism and communications.

In 2024, we welcomed **six new journalists into the fourth and fifth cohorts of the English-language program**, and saw the completion of the third cohort. Together, the nine journalists represented seven countries on three continents: Kenya, Bhutan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Cameroon, India and Brazil. In all, fellows produced **33 stories** in English throughout the year, and three of those articles were collaborative reports examining common issues shared across regions. Several fellows have gone on to win additional fellowships, international awards and jobs at prestigious outlets in their home countries. **One fellow secured a fellowship to attend the annual Society of Environmental Journalists conference in Philadelphia and subsequently ran for the organization's Board of Directors.** Another fellow was invited to a national conference of scientists in Brazil, presenting on science communication for global audiences; he was later hired at the country's largest business publication to report on economics and environment. **And another fellow was named a finalist in Save the Children's Global Media Awards**, for one of her Mongabay fellowship stories.

Similarly, our **Spanish-language program** completed its third cohort of fellows with journalists from Ecuador, Bolivia and Honduras, and welcomed the fourth cohort, among a competitive pool of **277 applications**. The fourth cohort included reporters from Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. In the second half of the year, the fifth cohort included journalists from Colombia, Venezuela and Guatemala.



Mongabay Latam created a group for fellows from different cohorts to continue to share experiences, network and even organize themselves to work together. On at least three occasions, they have come together to apply for funding to write environmental stories as a group. Furthermore, one fellow was hired by Mongabay Latam to lead a special project to reach local Amazonian news media in Peru, while many others have continued on as contributors. Other fellows have used Mongabay's program as a launchpad into other initiatives, such as a project to study climate displacement in depth, while others have been accepted into other fellowship programs. Separate from the Y. Eva Tan Conservation Reporting Fellowship, in June 2024, Mongabay Latam piloted a fellowship program for Indigenous communicators in Ecuador. The program supported two Shuar reporters and one Kichwa reporter.

In 2024, Mongabay Africa launched its French-language fellowship. We received around 500 applications for the new program, from which 12 fellows were selected and trained in the Sahel and Congo Basin across two cohorts. The fellows produced 37 articles and three short-form videos. One fellow also was hired by Mongabay as a social media producer during the same year. All fellows are now active freelancers and part of Mongabay's contributor network. Members of the initial cohort have since launched a network of French-speaking environmental journalists in Africa, based in Burkina Faso.



Forest in Massaha community forest in Gabon. Image by Rhett A. Butler.





Internships

Since its founding in 2011, Mongabay's news writing internship program has served more than 100 up-and-coming environmental journalists. The program provides the increasingly rare opportunity for journalists at the start of their careers to work with experienced editors on meaningful environmental stories and begin to build a publishing history at a respected and widely read news outlet. In 2024, Mongabay selected three interns from more than 450 applicants. **Interns published five to seven articles while working with different editors.** One of the interns got a fellowship to work as a science communicator immediately after completing his internship with Mongabay.



Mongabay Kids

In 2024, Mongabay Kids continued its mission to **connect children aged 8-14 with nature and empower them to become environmental stewards.** We published more than 125 stories, fact-filled features, interactive games, art and craft activities and other engaging learning resources to inform and inspire our audience. Our Wild News stories covered wide-ranging topics, including carbon-fighting krill poo, species discoveries and the latest in conservation tech. Educators and guardians used our biweekly newsletters to access curated content around educational themes.

Putting into place market research from 2023, we updated our website with a new look and improved user interface. **As a result in 2024, we saw a 30% growth in audience reach and engagement.** We solidified our partnership with Professor Stacy Asher and students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Art, Art History & Design, working with undergrads and interns on design projects and concept prototypes.



2025 and Beyond

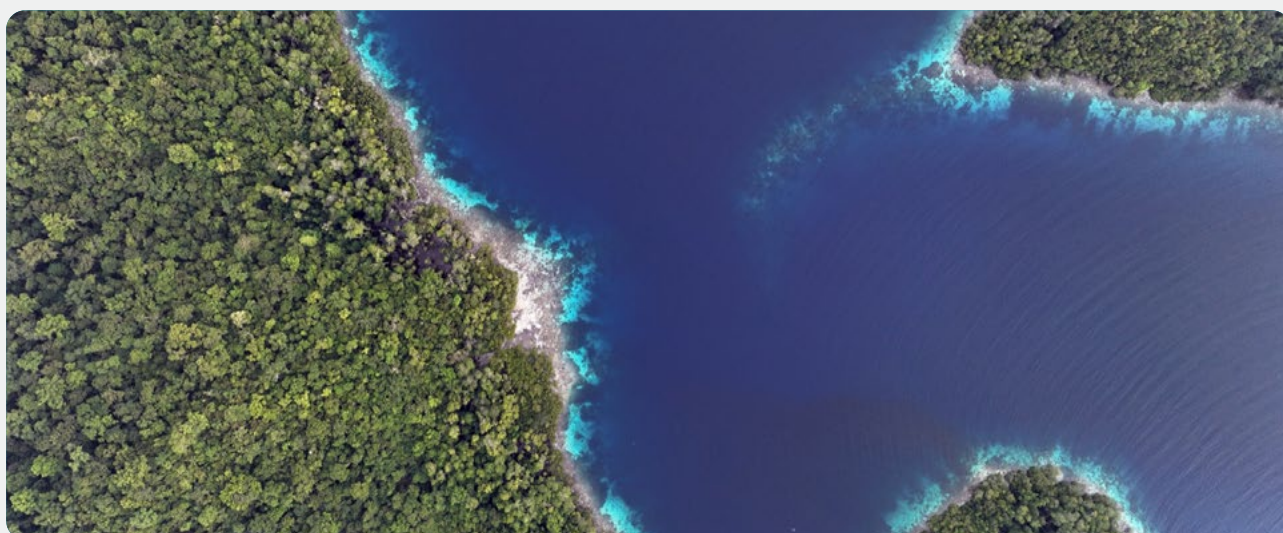


At the midway point of this pivotal decade for addressing **the planetary emergency**, Mongabay is creating a newsroom that links local environmental changes with regional or global issues to provide the bigger picture of a global-scale crisis to a diverse audience through frequent, nuanced and credible reporting.

The urgent need for transformative action on global environmental crises, such as biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, is abundantly clear. Yet, taking coordinated action based on a shared set of facts is increasingly challenged by a degraded information ecosystem with increasing disinformation, audience fragmentation and competition for attention. Mongabay is working to address this by prioritizing editorial coverage of themes that promote global thinking about environmental challenges while continuing to organize the newsroom around regional or national bureaus with local working relationships.

In 2025, Mongabay is expanding our use of **global reporting desks led by issue-area specialists** who organize coverage of common themes and support journalists working in bureaus with expertise in their specific geographies. This development includes formalizing reporting desks that cover topics central to Mongabay's editorial agenda. **Mongabay plans to launch oceans, wildlife and solutions desks in 2025** to pursue complementary coverage between regions through increased editorial coordination and adaptation to satisfy different needs and engage at more local scales.

Mongabay's ability to drive impact remains rooted in our ability to publish stories that would otherwise go untold to audiences that use the news to inspire their actions. **Our focus remains on areas with high biodiversity, such as tropical rainforests and rural communities, which receive little attention from mainstream media.** However, to embrace our mission to report on environmental issues at a legitimately planetary scale, Mongabay needs to bring its unique approach to independent journalism to the United States, starting with a focus on California's biodiversity. California is Mongabay's home, and biodiversity is the topic that started our organization's story. U.S. media have historically been robust enough to meet most information needs. Now, corporate consolidation of mainstream media means there's less incentive than ever to cover the environment with clear urgency. Disengaged audiences need alternatives that can meaningfully fill this information gap, which creates space for independent outlets like Mongabay to grow a meaningful niche.



Ocean, reef, mangroves, and rainforest in Raja Ampat. Image by Rhett A. Butler.



Financials



	2023	2024
Support and revenue		
Contributions and grants	\$11,062,034	\$9,551,300
Program service revenue	-	-
Other revenue	\$651,371	\$691,785
Total revenue and support	\$11,713,405	\$10,243,085
Expenses		
Programs	\$5,179,621	\$6,470,551
Management and general	\$308,102	\$334,254
Fundraising	\$260,168	\$284,227
Total expenses	\$5,747,891	\$7,089,032
Change in net assets	\$5,965,514	\$3,154,053
Net assets - Beginning of year	\$11,329,902	\$17,295,415
Net assets - End of year	\$11,295,415	\$20,449,469
Assets		
Cash and investments	\$13,899,946	\$15,940,279
Contributions receivable	\$3,612,989	\$4,809,133
Fundraising	-	-
Prepaid expense	\$49,686	\$35,050
Total assets	\$17,571,621	\$20,784,462
Liabilities	\$276,206	\$334,993
Net assets	\$17,295,415	\$20,449,469
Total liabilities and net assets	\$17,571,621	\$20,784,462

Expenditure overview



Donors and Supporters



Donors and Supporters

Thank you for your support in 2024!

\$100,000+

Acacia Conservation Fund, Anonymous, BAND Foundation, BBVA Foundation, Ford Foundation, John F. Swift, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Packard Foundation, RSF Social Finance and 11th Hour Project, Rumah Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, State of California and California Institute for Biodiversity, Stichting Sub3, Summa Foundation, The Overbrook Foundation, The Tilia Fund, Tierra Pura Foundation, Woka Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous, Copybara Fund, Dominic Scriven, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Gloria Principe and John O'Farrell, Gottesman Fund, Marisla Foundation, Pangolin Crisis Fund, an initiative by the Wildlife Conservation Network and Save Pangolins, Sall Family Foundation, Stockel Family Foundation, The Christensen Fund, The Summit Foundation, World Resources Institute

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous (2), Binnacle Fund, a fund of Tides Foundation, Carla and David Crane Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, Cartier for Nature, Climate and Land Use Alliance, Conservation International (CI) and the French Government, Enlyst Fund, Huang Chen Foundation, Impact Assets, Jeanne and Walter Sedgwick, John Dawson, Martin Family Foundation, Meliore Foundation, Schmidt Ocean Institute, Shared Earth Foundation, Skyscraper Foundation, Stichting Sub3, Suggs Family Foundation, The Kennedy Foundation, The Mays Family Charitable Fund, The Silent Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous (2), Charles Smith, Donna Langley, Elaine and Eric Hahn, FJC-A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds, Institute for Nonprofit News, Institute For War and Peace Reporting, Loaiza-Howe Family, Mike and Patricia Fox, Milkweed Foundation, Morgan Family Fund, Nancy and Penn Butler, Solutions Journalism Network, Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund, a fund of Tides Foundation, Weeden Foundation, Weinmann Charitable Trust

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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\$250 - \$999

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A special thanks to Mongabay's Sustaining members. Monthly support is one of the most powerful ways to support independent journalism because it provides the financial stability to report on timely issues while also planning ahead.



Mother Coquerel's Sifaka with baby. Image by Rhett A. Butler.





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