

NATURE

CONSERVANCY

Last Stand

A MICRONESIAN FAMILY SAVES ITS ONE-OF-A-KIND FOREST

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MAKING ROOM FOR
15 MILLION BATS

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INVITE MORE BIRDS
TO YOUR BACKYARD

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THE GREAT
DISMAL SWAMP

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6 Massive Outback Action

Four new Indigenous Protected Areas, totaling an astounding 10.3 million acres (about the size of Switzerland), were established in Western Australia's Kimberley region with help from The Nature Conservancy. The Conservancy has invested nearly \$1 million of strategic financing toward developing plans that will see this land managed to international standards, with Traditional Owners leading the way in conserving their own country. [nature.org/AR-kimberley](https://www.nature.org/AR-kimberley)

7 First Pacific Easement

The first conservation easement outside the Americas is protecting the world's last forest of rare ka trees (*Terminalia carolinensis*) in wetlands on the island of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia (right). Local families who own the land and the Conservancy's Micronesia program sought expertise from the Conservancy's California and North Carolina chapters, opting to use funds from the transaction to create an endowment that will ensure the forest's long-term conservation management. This pioneer project, involving many local and international partners, with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service, should help spread the protection technique throughout the Pacific and become another tool in furthering ridges-to-reefs conservation efforts in island nations around the world. [nature.org/AR-kosrae](https://www.nature.org/AR-kosrae)



THOLMAN ALIK STAKEHOLDER

“Without nature we are nothing. Nature is part of us. We talk about people owning land, but the land doesn't belong to us. We belong to the land. Nature defines us in so many ways: our identity, our heritage, our livelihood. In my opinion we are just the keepers of the land to make sure nature stays the way it is as much as possible. We have this mindset that we need to develop nature, our environment. We really should be adapting to nature and the environment instead of the other way around.

“As a group we thought establishing the easement was very, very important to us. This is everything that says who we are as indigenous people. This easement is a big step for us. This guarantees that the forest will be protected in perpetuity. But I would also like to see the forest conservation area expand to also integrate the other essential components like the watershed, the swamp area, the mangrove, as well as the near shore marine—because they all are connected. All ecosystems are connected. We cannot just focus on one component, but look at it from a holistic approach or comprehensive approach to include all the ecosystems. I would like to see us move in that direction to establish a ridge-to-reef conservation initiative.”



Tholman Alik (left), along with his family and 10 others on the island of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia sought guidance from The Nature Conservancy to adapt the American concept of a conservation easement to their Pacific island home. The easement allows them to restrict development and ensure that future generations will maintain their forest's integrity.