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# Scientists discover scores of species in Suriname's 'Tropical Eden'

by ALAN BOYLE, SCIENCE EDITOR

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It wasn't exactly paradise, but scientists say their trip to a mountainous region of the South American nation of Suriname convinced them that it's a "Tropical Eden" worth protecting for the sake of its biodiversity — and its water.

"Suriname is one of the last places where an opportunity still exists to conserve massive tracts of untouched forest and pristine rivers where biodiversity is thriving," Trond Larsen, director of Conservation International's Rapid Assessment Program, said in a news release about the trip.

The three-week survey in Suriname's upper Palumeu River watershed, conducted last year and led by Conservation International, cataloged 1,378 species — including 60 species that are potentially new to science. Among those new species are:

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*With financial support from the Suriname Conservation Foundation, the Rapid Assessment Program's scientific team included members from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, CELOS, Conservation International, Global Wildlife Conservation, the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, the Biodiversity Institute at the University of Kansas, the Royal Ontario Museum, and*

*circles. To keep up with NBCNews.com's stories about science and space, sign up for the Tech & Science newsletter, delivered to your email in-box every weekday. You can also check out "The Case for Pluto," my book about the controversial dwarf planet and the search for new worlds.*

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ALAN BOYLE, SCIENCE EDITOR

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