

Lisa Beres

# Kids Saving the Rainforest Grows Up - Earth911.com

December 4, 2018

Thursday, July 5 2018, 9:05 AM

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## Kids Saving the Rainforest Grows Up

 Gemma Alexander  July 5, 2018



**2** SHARES        

In 1999, two nine-year-old girls living in Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica, were troubled by the deforestation that was putting their beloved squirrel monkey at risk. So Janine Licare and Aislin Livingstone raised money with a roadside crafts stand and bought 4 acres of rainforest. Kids Saving the Rainforest (KSTR), has grown to manage a reforestation program, a wildlife rescue and sanctuary, and a bridge-building program that reduces wildlife/human conflicts.

Now, approaching 20 years later, the organization that grew around Licare and Livingstone's efforts is getting serious and going global.

## Reforestation

KSTR's newest project returns to its roots. KSTR is replanting almost 300 acres of forest in Parrita, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, with nursery-grown native tree saplings. The trees will be maintained for 20 years and will never be logged. KSTR will release wildlife from their rehabilitation center to join the white-faced monkeys and three-toed sloths that already live in the forest.

## Wildlife Rescue Center and Sanctuary

KSTR runs a wildlife rescue center and sanctuary for wounded, sick, and abandoned rainforest animals. They staff the center with a wildlife vet, vet tech, professional staff, and amateur volunteers. They care for up to 200 monkeys, capuchins, sloths, kinkajous, and raccoons each year. They report a 55 percent release rate and are working to become the first organization to successfully release hand-raised two-toed sloths into the wild.