

## PRESS RELEASE

By Director Erik Kauffeldts Fond together with Forests of the World & Keflico A / S

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### **Danish foundation and NGO in collaboration on important forest restoration project in Bolivia**

**Director Erik Kauffeldt's Foundation, which owns timber importer Keflico A/S, donates 41.000 USD to an environmentally and socially important forest restoration project in Bolivia. The project aims to restore fire-damaged forest areas of 6,000 hectares in some of the world's most vulnerable forests.**

The Santa Cruz area, located in the eastern part of Bolivia and home to the indigenous Chiquitano people, has lost huge areas of forest over the past 20 years as a result of poverty, illegal logging and a rapidly growing agricultural industry ie. meat and soy production.

The areas have gradually become less cohesive, and as the forest disappears, it also loses its resilience to climate change. In the last few years, the area has experienced a record number of forest fires, where as much as 150,000 hectares of forest have been destroyed. This has resulted in the indigenous people being pressured on their livelihoods.

Through a new forest restoration project will Director Erik Kauffeldt's Foundation, which owns the Danish timber company Keflico, and the environmental organization Forests of the World in collaboration with the local partner APCOB (Apoyo para el Campesino-Indígena del Oriente de Bolivia -Assistance to Eastern Bolivia's Indigenous Farmers), support the restoration of the forest areas belonging to two of the hardest hit villages in the area, Santa Monica and Río Blanco. The fund supports the project with a quarter of a million kroner:

*- It is not every day that we, together with an environmental organization like the Forests of the World, have the opportunity to support a project like the one in Bolivia. We are therefore very happy to be able to contribute to such a meaningful project for the benefit of both nature, climate and not least the local population, says the chairman of the board of Director Erik Kauffeldt's Foundation, Mr. Kim Munk-Petersen.*

Keflico is also pleased to be able to support a project that ensures sustainable development in some of the world's most vulnerable forest areas:

*- We are happy and proud that the fund we are owned by chooses to support such an exciting, and not least important forest project, as the one in Bolivia. With the project, the foundation supports the sustainable development that we also work on promoting in some of the most vulnerable forest areas in the world, says commercial director of Keflico, Camilla Hyldgaard Thomsen, and adds:*

*- We hope that the project can be a source of inspiration to promote sustainable development in some of the world's other vulnerable forest areas. It is not only important for the population, nature and climate in the local areas, but also for us to be able to build and develop sustainably in Denmark in the future. Therefore, our work to promote sustainable development in the world's forests is also an area that we have chosen to report on in the sustainability report we publish these days.*

## **Restoration of 6,000 hectares of fire-damaged forest**

The forest restoration project includes both the planting of valuable local timber species, the removal of competing growths and lianas, as well as the prevention and control of forest fires. In 2023, the plan is for the entire 6,000 hectares of forest to be restored:

*- Both villages have an approved forest management plan, where they each have about 7,500 hectares of forest for timber production, but after the violent forest fires have ravaged large parts of the forest areas, the villagers are now under pressure and need support to get back on their feet, explains technical advisor at Forests of the World, Jens Holm Kanstrup, and continues:*

*- They will therefore receive support to ensure reforestation of a minimum of 6,000 hectares of heavily fire-affected and therefore endangered forest over the next three years. The restoration will ensure the natural regrowth of plant species that are important for the area's rich biodiversity. The project will, for example, benefit endangered animals such as the Jaguar, Tapir and Blue-yellow Macaw parrot.*

In addition, one of the goals is that the Chiquitano people after the project have the capacity to look after and manage their own forests in the future for the benefit of themselves and nature. But also that the project can spread in the region by virtue of destroyed areas being reforested with forestry, which can function as earnings with production and further processing of, for example, wood products, coffee and almonds. In this way, poverty among the local population is counteracted and the forest areas gain an economic value for them.

To ensure that the reforestation proceeds as agreed and expected, the Forests of the World, in collaboration with the Bolivian organization APCOB, will monitor the reforestation areas with satellite images and drone overflights. In addition, experts monitor the forests together with the villagers with visits and surveys in exposed places to prevent forest fires. In addition, independent evaluations of the reforestation will be carried out through the certification company Preferred by Nature.

The project extends to 2023 with annual reporting.

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### **For more information, please contact**

- Mr. Kim Munk-Petersen, Chairman of the Board, Director Erik Kauffeldts Fond, tel .: +45 30 98 97 00 and email [kmp@vingaardshus.dk](mailto:kmp@vingaardshus.dk)
- Mr. Jens Holm Kanstrup, technical advisor, Forests of the World, tel .: +45 31 68 14 16 and email [jhk@verdenskove.org](mailto:jhk@verdenskove.org)
- Ms. Camilla Hyldgaard Thomsen, Commercial Director, Keflico, tel .: +45 9813 3544, mobile: +45 2163 3082 and email [cht@keflico.com](mailto:cht@keflico.com)

### **Director Erik Kauffeldts Fond**

Director Erik Kauffeldts Fond is a Danish private equity fund founded by the previous owner and founder of the North Jutland wood company Keflico A/S. The fund has the majority stake in the company today.

The purpose of the fund is to preserve Keflico as a Danish-owned company and to secure and support the company's financial basis. But also, to support with loans or Scholarships for current, future and former employees of Keflico.

### **Forests of the World**

Forests of the World is a Danish environmental organization that fights for a world with a rich forest nature. This is done in collaboration with partners and the people who live in and by the forest.

In Denmark, the association is fighting to stop the loss of the forests' biological diversity. The organization wants to create a new Danish landscape with more wild forest nature that is rich in biological diversity.

The Forests of the World helps companies, states and consumers to take responsibility at home and abroad, thereby ensuring a sustainable use of forest resources.

### **Keflico A/S**

Keflico is a Danish-owned timber company, which since 1953 has serviced and advised professionals in the wood-consuming industry as well as the Danish timber traders and construction markets. The company has supplied wood for several major construction projects in Denmark and abroad, such as the Royal Arena in Copenhagen, Nordea's headquarters in Copenhagen and Norway's largest office building in wood, Valle Wood.

Keflico has dedicated itself to sustainable development and was among the first Danish timber Importer to define a sustainable purchasing policy for all purchased and sold wood. In addition, they have also committed themselves to continuously reporting on sustainable development.