

Emilio and the cloud forest guardians

CREATED BY: FIDECOAGUA



This story was lovingly created together with the FIDECOAGUA and AGU Thriving Earth Exchange team to help children discover who the Guardians of the Cloud Forest are, what they do, and why their work is so important for Coatepec, Veracruz.

Through Emilio's adventure, we hope you feel inspired to care for nature, protect the forest, and discover something very special within yourself: your own inner Forest Guardian.

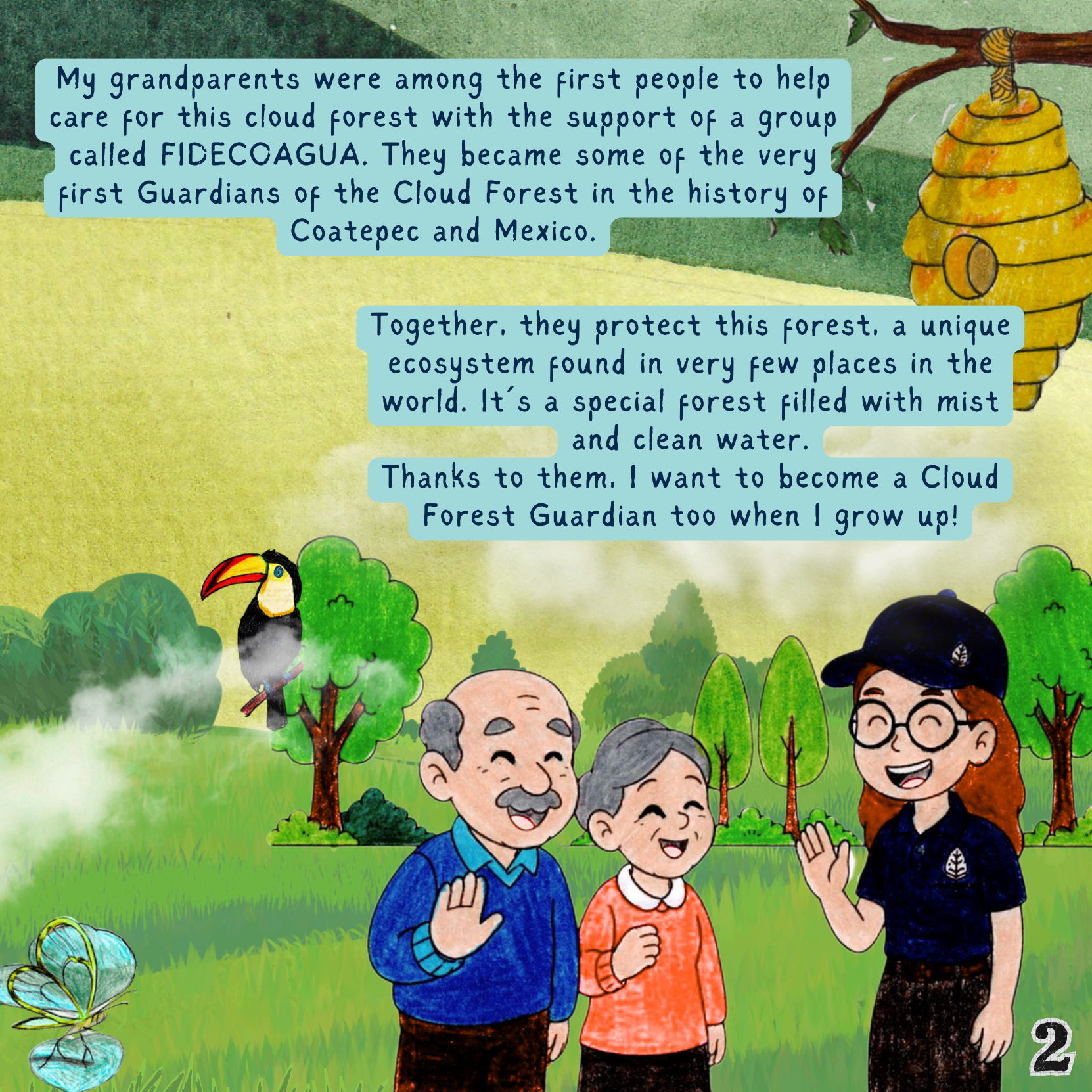


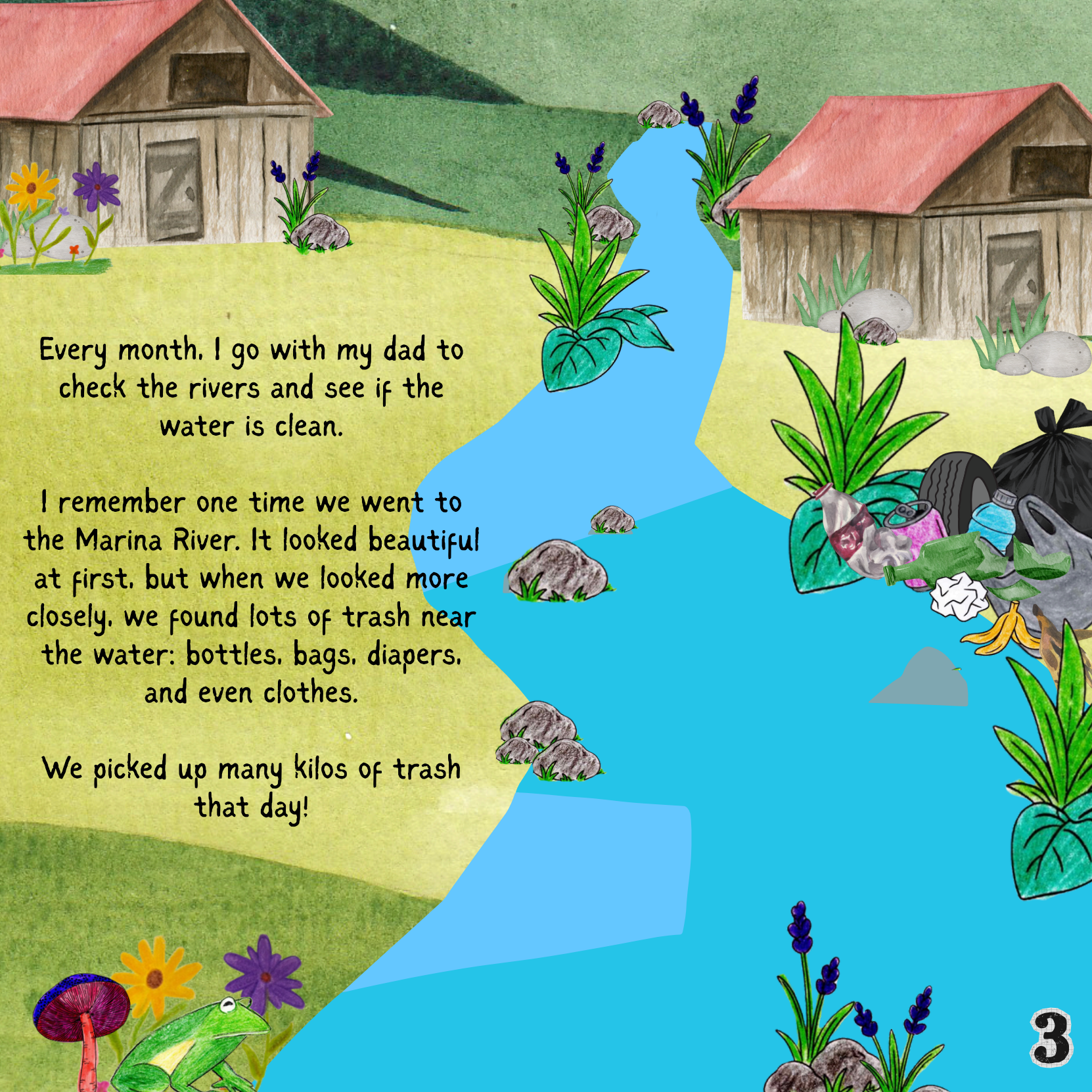
Hi! My name is Emilio. I'm 9 years old,
and I live in the mountains of the magical
town of Coatepec, Veracruz.
All around me are lots of trees, rivers,
animals, and forests. This place is very
special because it gives us water, clean
air, food, and cool shade.

My grandparents were among the first people to help care for this cloud forest with the support of a group called FIDECCOAGUA. They became some of the very first Guardians of the Cloud Forest in the history of Coatepec and Mexico.

Together, they protect this forest, a unique ecosystem found in very few places in the world. It's a special forest filled with mist and clean water.

Thanks to them, I want to become a Cloud Forest Guardian too when I grow up!





Every month, I go with my dad to
check the rivers and see if the
water is clean.

I remember one time we went to
the Marina River. It looked beautiful
at first, but when we looked more
closely, we found lots of trash near
the water: bottles, bags, diapers,
and even clothes.

We picked up many kilos of trash
that day!



I also like to collect rainwater in buckets.
We use it for the bathroom and to water
our plants.

It's a simple way to make good use of the
water the cloud forest gives us without
taking too much from the rivers.



One day, there was a fire in the cloud forest and my parents went to help. I felt very sad because it was caused by climate change.

I made sandwiches for all the Forest Guardians who went up to help put out the fire.

And guess what? They did it! Together, they stopped the fire and helped protect our beautiful forest.

That day, I learned that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. I felt proud to help, and more than ever, I knew that one day I wanted to become a Cloud Forest Guardian too.



After that terrible fire, we went back to the forest to plant new trees and help our cloud forest grow again.

All the Forest Guardians worked together. We cleared the ground, dug little holes, planted the trees, and gave them plenty of water.

But guess what? Planting a tree is only the beginning! The Guardians say we have to come back again and again to check on the little trees, water them, and help them grow big and strong.

Being a Forest Guardian is a lot of work... wow, there's always something to do! Haha! But seeing the forest turn green again makes it all worth it.

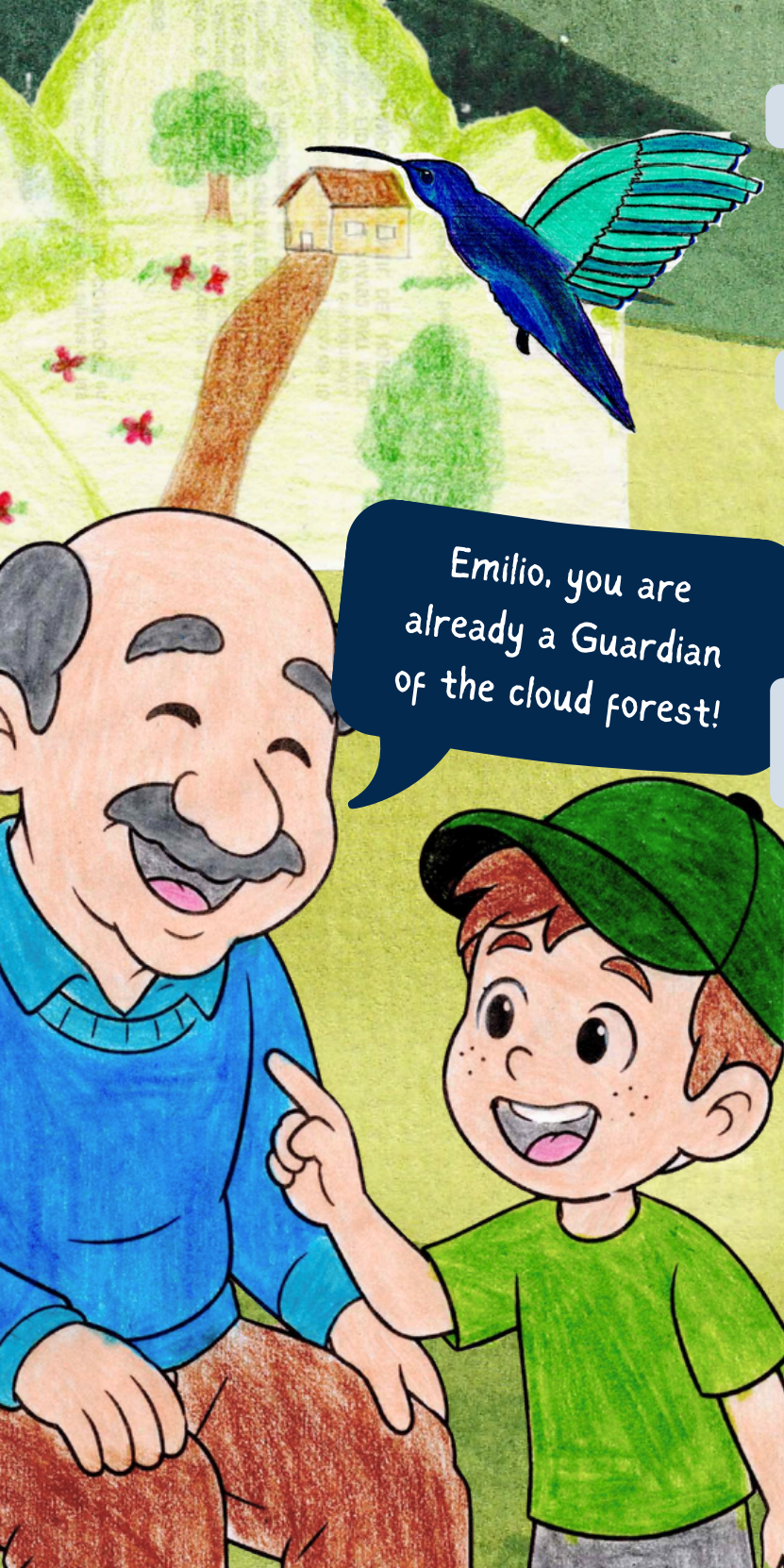




Thanks to all the Forest Guardians who live in the mountains, and with the support of FIDECOAGUA, more than 1,500 hectares of cloud forest are being protected.

But the Guardians do much more than take care of the forest! On their land, many of them also grow coffee, bamboo, and macadamia nuts, or raise trout. These activities help them support their families while continuing to care for and protect their land.

That's one of the amazing things about being a Forest Guardian: finding ways to live from the land while also taking care of the forest.



Not long ago, I went to visit my grandpa and told him about everything we've been doing to take care of our forest.

And guess what he told me?

He said, "Emilio, you're already a Forest Guardian!"

Emilio, you are already a Guardian of the cloud forest!

At first, I was surprised. I thought I had to grow up before I could become one. But my grandpa reminded me of everything I had already done: caring for the rivers, saving water, helping during the fire, and planting new trees.

That's when I understood something very important: you don't have to be a grown-up to make a difference. Every little action counts.

And if I can be a Forest Guardian, you can be one too!





So now, I want to invite you to become a
Cloud Forest Guardian too!

You don't have to live in the mountains
or wait until you grow up. Every time
you care for water, protect a tree, help
an animal, pick up trash, or teach
someone to love nature, you're already
making a difference.

There are so many ways to be a Forest
Guardian!





So, are you ready to find the Cloud Forest
Guardian inside you?
Our forests needs all of us—and the adventure
can start today!

TO BE  CONTINUED...

To all the Forest Guardians, communities, and organizations who work every day to protect the cloud forest.

Your effort, dedication, and love for nature make it possible for new generations, like Emilio's, to grow up with hope for a greener world. Thank you for being an example, an inspiration, and a guide for us all.

May we all become the Guardians our cloud forest needs!

