

World Land Trust Restoration Ecology Annual Report

2009



Views over the Buenaventura Reserve, Ecuador 2009 © WLT



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1. Introduction

Formed in 2005, the World Land Trust (WLT) Restoration Ecology programme encompasses three main strands of activity: the Carbon Balanced programme, the SSE Tree-establishment programme, and the development of large-scale carbon offsetting projects. Although separate programme areas, these activities share a common theme of habitat restoration, regeneration and preservation. They link the funds of our supporters with quantified benefits in terms of habitat restoration and/or the provision of 'ecosystem services', such as carbon sequestration.

Based in Suffolk, England, WLT works in partnership with well-established conservation NGOs located in specifically chosen project areas. This approach allows the Trust to draw on the extensive conservation and community knowledge of these organisations. Equally important, it also ensures that the direct control and management of project areas remains in local hands. Our project partners in Ecuador are Fundación Pro-Bosque, Fundación Ecominga and Fundación Jocotoco, and in Mexico, the Grupo Ecológico de Sierra Gorda. In Brazil and Paraguay we work with the Reserva Ecologica De Guappi Assu (REGUA) and Guyra Paraguay, respectively, while in India our partner NGO is the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and in Tanzania, WCS Tanzania.

The Carbon Balanced programme enables organisations and private individuals to offset their carbon footprint through projects that also contribute significantly to WLT's main conservation objectives. Utilising methods such as avoided deforestation and assisted natural regeneration, Carbon Balanced projects sequester carbon dioxide, and in the process, preserve existing forest and/or regenerate degraded or previously cleared woodland. During 2009, carbon sequestration and ongoing land management activities continued at the four existing Carbon Balanced projects in Ecuador and Mexico. These are sited at the Buenaventura, Tapichalaca and Yanacocha Reserves (Ecuador) and the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve (Mexico). In cooperation with Ecuadorian project partner, Fundación Jocotoco, the Restoration Ecology team also made progress in developing a new Carbon Balanced project, located at the Rio Canandé Reserve in north west Ecuador.

In 2006, WLT entered into a partnership with Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) to develop a tree-establishment programme based around the company's Power2 energy tariff. Under the terms of this agreement, WLT were to plant sufficient trees to ensure that, at the end of our ten year commitment period, six trees remained standing for every customer signed up to this energy tariff. Proving a success, this initial agreement was later extended to a second phase, with WLT contracted to establish 600,000 trees between 2006 and 2008. During 2009, productive discussions between WLT and SSE secured the extension of our partnership to a third phase of activity. Taking place between 2009 and 2012, 'SSE3' has enabled the Restoration Ecology team to extend the tree planting to new projects in India and Tanzania.

When paired with energy efficiency measures, carbon offsetting can be an important tool for conservation, in addition to helping mitigate climate change. In December 2008, the Restoration Ecology team expanded the scope of the programme when WLT signed an agreement with Swire Pacific Offshore Operations Pte Ltd. (SPO) to design a large-scale, fully verified, voluntary carbon offset project. Major developments on our Carbon Balanced programme include:

- The scale involved - the SPO project is intended to sequester some 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, an order of magnitude more than a typical Carbon Balanced project.
- Development of the SPO project for independent certification. The project has been designed with a view to achieving third-party certification according to two internationally recognised standards for voluntary carbon offsetting. Although Carbon Balanced projects are designed according to the guidance of one such standard, these projects are instead 'self-certified'.

In December 2009, following work on a Project Design Document (PDD), SPO contracted WLT for the further development of this project through to final verification.

The Restoration Ecology programme would be unable to continue its important contribution to habitat conservation without the funding provided by our business and private supporters. With an expanding portfolio of activities, overall Restoration Ecology income remained strong despite the difficult financial conditions within the wider UK economy during 2009. From feedback received, the Restoration Ecology team know our supporters share our determination to preserve critically threatened habitats throughout the world. We appreciate such messages and wish to thank all our supporters for their commitment to this cause.

2. Carbon Projects

Over the past five years, WLT's Carbon Balanced projects have provided organisations and private individuals with the opportunity to offset their unavoidable carbon dioxide emissions. 2009 saw carbon sequestration and land maintenance activities continue at our four existing project locations: Buenaventura, Tapichalaca and Yanacocha in Ecuador (all owned/managed by Fundación Jocotoco), and Sierra Gorda in Mexico (Grupo Ecológico de Sierra Gorda). The Restoration Ecology team and Fundación Jocotoco also successfully completed the development of a new Carbon Balanced project, located at the Rio Canandé Reserve in north west Ecuador.

2.1 World Land Trust Offsets

Carbon offsetting is made possible because carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) can move freely within the Earth's atmosphere. This means that the warming effect of GHG emissions is not restricted to their source locality. The overall impact of carbon dioxide emitted in one location can therefore be mitigated by equivalent carbon dioxide savings in another.

Carbon Balanced projects generate emissions savings (i.e. offsets) through the sequestration, or storage, of carbon in living plant matter as it grows. This is the principle behind the following reforestation and regeneration activities;

- **Assisted natural regeneration** – promoting natural succession, frequently by excluding grazing livestock and controlling fires, in order to allow forest cover to return. This is sometimes complemented by selective enrichment planting using native tree species.
- **Rehabilitation of degraded woodland** – protecting areas of damaged, partially cleared forest to allow the vegetation to recover, again often by excluding livestock and preventing wood-cutting.
- **Reforestation** – replanting previously cleared land, typically in buffer zones or corridors, in order to extend and reconnect standing forest important for endangered species. This always involves the use of 100% native tree species.

Conversely, carbon dioxide is released when vegetation decays or is burnt, and so another means of offsetting emissions is the conservation of existing forest that would otherwise have been destroyed. Known as **Avoided Deforestation**, or **REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation)**, this process is one that WLT has employed increasingly in recent years, being an extremely cost-effective way of achieving maximum conservation benefits. Because REDD involves the preservation of standing forest with its existing fauna, it is better for biodiversity than reforestation. It also requires considerably less manual labour and seedling inputs. This combination makes REDD WLT's preferred method of carbon sequestration.

2.2 Fundación Jocotoco – Buenaventura Reserve, Ecuador

Located in the western foothills of the Andes, Buenaventura is a unique and extremely important site for habitat conservation. The reserve lies at 450 - 1,100m a.s.l., encompassing the narrow band of cloud forest that exists at these altitudes - a rare feature on these otherwise dry, westerly slopes.

The moist, sub-tropical forest ecosystem at Buenaventura supports 12 Globally Threatened species of bird, including the Rufous-headed Chacalaca, El Oro Tapaculo and El Oro Parakeet. Buenaventura acts as the 'type locality' for the latter two species, and is the site of their only significant wild populations. The rich avian fauna includes another 30 endemic Near Threatened species, while the reserve is also home to Puma, Ocelot, and a variety of other large mammals. Combined with a lush, diverse flora, the ecosystem is one of the richest and yet most threatened in the Ecuadorian Andes.

Beginning with Fundación Jocotoco's purchase of 300 hectares in 1999, the reserve now



covers over 1,500 hectares of standing forest and pastures in the process of reversion to forest. In 2005, Carbon Balanced funds donated by our business and individual supporters enabled the purchase of a 10ha parcel of previously forested pasture, and since this time Fundación Jocotoco have been working steadily to restore the original forest cover. Seedlings of 14 native tree species, all purchased from local family-run nurseries, were initially planted on the land, and will sequester carbon whilst restoring the original forest habitat. According to the latest site reports, seedling developing is progressing well, and carbon sequestration rates remain in line with our initial projections.

Figure 1. Situated on the western slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes, Buenaventura lies at 450 - 1,100m a.s.l.. The warm, wet climate that prevails at these altitudes supports a moist, tropical vegetation type known as 'Cloud Forest'. Present in very few areas of the world, the Cloud Forest ecosystem is incredibly diverse - 42 Globally Threatened or Near Threatened species of bird, and large mammals such as Puma and Ocelot have been documented at Buenaventura to date © WLT.

2.3 Fundación Jocotoco – Tapichalaca Reserve, Ecuador

Tapichalaca is situated on the eastern slopes of the Andes within the headwaters of the Amazon and Rio Valladolid. With its easterly aspect and relatively high altitudes of 2,000-2,400m a.s.l., the reserve has a moist, temperate climate, allowing the development of *Podocarpus* forest – the only form of coniferous woodland found in Ecuador.

The forest at Tapichalaca is characterised by extremely high levels of biodiversity. The reserve itself was founded in order to preserve the only known habitat of the Jocotoco Antpitta, discovered here in 1997 and one of ten Globally Endangered species of bird present. An additional 150 threatened species of plant and nine threatened species of frog have been found within the reserve's boundaries, further strengthening Tapichalaca's status as a conservation priority.

Carbon Balanced funds enabled Fundación Jocotoco to purchase the 43ha Bustamante property in 2007, extending the reserve's western boundary. With 80% of this land being primary standing forest, the majority of Carbon Balanced offsets at this reserve are delivered through avoided deforestation. Originally forecast to sequester in excess of 5,070 tonnes of carbon dioxide, offsetting the emissions of both business and private supporters, this estimate has now been revised to 6,349 t/CO₂ in line with recent data on the natural evolution of the forest vegetation, and a re-profiled site risk analysis. This revision is the result of the most recent WLT due diligence visit to the reserve during 2009 and is typical of the ongoing re-evaluation that all Carbon Balanced projects are subjected to over the 20 year project horizon.



Figure 2. The Jocotoco Antpitta (*Grallaria ridgelyi*), a bizarre ground-dwelling bird species present only at Tapichalaca. Its discovery (new to science) in 1997 by WLT-US Deputy Director, Dr Robert Ridgely, led to the establishment of the reserve on this site. The same dense vegetation in which the Antpitta lives also provides the ideal habitat for elusive large mammals, such as the Mountain Tapir and Spectacled Bear © Doug Wechsler, VIRIO.



Figure 3. Located on the Eastern slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes at altitudes of 2,000 – 2,400m a.s.l., Tapichalaca offers breathtaking views over the surrounding mountain scenery. The cooler climate at these higher elevations allows for the development of Ecuador's only true coniferous forest, dominated by species of *Podocarpus* © WLT.

2.4 Fundación Jocotoco – Yanacocha Reserve, Ecuador

A high altitude reserve only 15km from the edge of Quito, the Ecuadorian capital, Yanacocha is extremely important, both as a wildlife refuge and an educational showcase for hands-on conservation. The site covers some 1,250ha of elfin *Polylepis* woodland, a habitat renowned for its exotic montane flora, but critically threatened across Ecuador by clearance for agriculture and exploitation for charcoal.

Among the abundant birdlife found at Yanacocha, the Black-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis nigrivestis*), an iridescent green and black Hummingbird, is undoubtedly the star attraction. The reserve, which is situated high on the slopes of the Pichincha Volcano, is thought to support the bird's entire global population, and in recognition of this, the species has been adopted as the symbol of nearby Quito.

Since 2007, when Carbon Balanced contributions secured a further 27ha of land for incorporation into the reserve, Fundación Jocotoco has been working on WLT's behalf to protect and restore this vitally important habitat. Planting using native species of *Polylepis* has taken place on previously forested pastures, while other areas are being managed to allow the regeneration of degraded woodland. Land maintenance, and monitoring of seedling growth/mortality rates, are now critical to ensure the success of the initial planting. This will ensure the sequestration of over 10,500 t/CO₂.



Figure 4. The Black-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis nigrivestis*), symbol of nearby Quito, the Ecuadorian capital. The reserve at Yanacocha supports the entire global population of this magnificent green and black Hummingbird. This, showcases the important contribution of Carbon Balanced funds to conservation efforts © WLT.



Figure 5. The early stages of tree-planting at Yanacocha. The reserve is located at high altitude on the slopes of the Pinchincha Volcano and this image clearly illustrates the challenges of reforestation work on such steep, mountainous terrain. These efforts will, over the 20 year active project period, sequester an estimated 10,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide © WLT.

2.5 Grupo Ecológico de Sierra Gorda - Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

Over two decades since its foundation, the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve (SGBR), has evolved into one of the most advanced conservation and social initiatives within Latin America. Located in the central Mexican state of Queretaro, the reserve has a rich ecological heritage due to its situation at the confluence of two biogeographic realms. The result is an incredibly varied flora, encompassing 15 different vegetation types/sub-types, and a rich fauna, invertebrate and vertebrate alike. The Jaguar, Puma and Ocelot are among six species of feline to be encountered, while almost 800 different species of butterfly have been recorded to date. The region is, however, one of Mexico's most socially deprived, with widespread poverty and poor standards of living. This has led to considerable environmental degradation: pollution, hydrological damage and deforestation.

Grupo Ecológico de Sierra Gorda (GESG) has made considerable strides in restoring the degraded ecosystems whilst engaging local communities. Through a combination of community-based reforestation, habitat regeneration and watershed rehabilitation, the diversity and integrity of the natural ecosystems have been improved, as have the social and economic standing of the population.

Reforestation activities provide GESG with a reserve of carbon offsets, and in 2007, WLT entered into an agreement for the rights to offsets equating to over 3,500 tonnes of CO₂. Carbon sequestration at SGBR is aggregated over many smallholdings owned by residents in the Sierra Gorda project area. This is part of GESG's innovative Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) model, a concept which involves the conservation organisation rewarding individual landowners for taking steps to preserve and enhance the natural environment. This approach enables the local community to benefit directly from biodiversity conservation and helps build support for the Sierra Gorda initiative. This is central to GESG's overall aim of improving both the ecological and the socio-economic outlook in this area of Mexico.



Figure 6. Natural regeneration work on hillsides at Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. Many of these projects restore degraded habitats whilst improving the hydrology of the area. They frequently employ members of the local communities, providing a much-needed form of direct income © GESG.



Figure 7. Basaseachi Waterfall, Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. The reserve encompasses incredibly varied terrain, from low-lying desert basins in the west, to the mountainous Sierra Madre in central and eastern areas. This is a major factor contributing to the astonishing diversity of habitats within the reserve – including 15 different vegetation types/sub-types © GESG.

2.6 Fundación Jocotoco – Rio Canandé Reserve, Ecuador

Situated in Esmeraldas province in north western Ecuador, Rio Canandé Reserve is the site of WLT's newest Carbon Balanced project. The reserve lies in the western foothills of the Andes at an altitude of around 500m a.s.l. and receives extremely high levels of rainfall – up to 16,000mm per year. Combined with its equatorial location, this creates a humid climate throughout the year, leading to the development of a rich tropical vegetation.

The project serves as a replacement for a site purchased at the Buenaventura Reserve (the Rodas property) that was originally intended to form a Carbon Balanced project location. Also

targeted by WLT's Ecuador fund, the Rodas property was ultimately incorporated into the WLT Ecuador Rainforest Conservation Project. Carbon Balanced supporter funds were, however, instrumental in encouraging Fundación Jocotoco to make this purchase. The Rio Canandé project will ensure the offset of an equivalent volume of emissions to those that were to be sequestered by the Rodas property at Buenaventura.

Known as the Chocó, a form of tropical forest characterised by its lush and exceptionally varied flora, the Rio Canandé region has been designated a 'hotspot' of endemism. It is one of only 25 such areas on Earth and, as well as boasting an estimated 10% of all Neotropical plant species, is particularly important for the diversity of its native bird life. This is recognised in its Birdlife International status as an Endemic Bird Area.

Once stretching almost uninterrupted from Panama to northern Ecuador, the Chocó has now been reduced to isolated patches of forest. Those surrounding Rio Canandé are among the most extensive remaining, but even here deforestation rates approach 40%. Logging, and clearance for agriculture and, increasingly, for oil palm plantations, are the main drivers of deforestation and all are real threats at Rio Canandé.



Figure 8. Logging near the border of Rio Canandé Reserve, evidence of the real threat to the survival of these forests. Logging is not the only habitat pressure, with land cleared for agriculture and to make way for oil palm plantations. Increasing demand for palm oil has been a barrier to conservation efforts in South East Asia for a number of years and is also a growing problem in South America © WLT.



Figure 9. An Ocelot stalking through its Ecuadorian forest habitat. This image was captured by one of the camera traps located at the Rio Canandé Reserve. The nearby forest also supports larger felines, such as the Jaguar, as well as many species of primate, and Baird's Tapir, the largest of the three species of Tapir found in Central & South America © D. Tomlinson.

The Chocó's extremely high levels of biodiversity and critically threatened status make the forests at Rio Canandé a conservation priority for WLT. Reinforcing its biodiversity value, this region supports large mammal species such as the Jaguar, Black Howler Monkey, Spider Capuchin and Baird's Tapir, in addition to its varied bird and plant life.

In the face of probable deforestation, Rio Canandé Reserve was established by WLT project partner Fundación Jocotoco and is presently 2,150ha in size. Within this, the Holger Velez property, site of WLT's Carbon Balanced project, covers some 50ha.

Over the 20-year project accounting period, Carbon Balanced activities at Rio Canandé are expected to sequester some 9,202 tonnes of carbon dioxide. With the Holger Velez property predominantly composed of primary standing forest, the majority of carbon sequestration will occur by avoided deforestation. Assisted natural regeneration of marginal land will generate the residual carbon storage element.

3. WLT Tree-Establishment Initiative

Over the past four years, WLT has been engaged in an extensive tree-planting programme in conjunction with Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE). This partnership will ensure that six trees are planted for each customer signing up to SSE's Power2 energy tariff. With the terms of this agreement expressed purely in numbers of trees planted, rather than the volume of carbon dioxide sequestered, a different approach is taken to project design and ongoing monitoring than for our Carbon Balanced projects.

During 2009, WLT and SSE entered into an agreement to extend the existing contract to a third phase of planting activity. 'SSE 3' takes place from 2009 to 2012 and commits WLT to the establishment of a further 450,000 trees, building on the existing 600,000-tree commitment under the previous two phases of the programme. WLT welcomes this opportunity to continue our strong working relationship with SSE, and has succeeded in expanding the project to involve new partner organisations and different project areas.

In addition to further planting at the Ecuadorian reserves of Buenaventura, Jorupe, Tapichalaca and Yanacocha (Fundación Jocotoco), Cerro Blanco (Fundación Pro-Bosque) and Cerro Candelaria (Fundación Ecominga), as well as Guapi Assu in Brazil (REGUA), 'SSE3' locations include the Garo Hills, India (Wildlife Trust of India) and Bunduki Gap, Tanzania (WCS Tanzania).

The SSE Tree-Planting initiative provides numerous ecological and social benefits. The trees planted help mitigate climate change by sequestering CO₂ as they grow. At the same time, they gradually restore and reconnect often degraded and fragmented forest habitats. Funding from the programme also provides knowledge/skills training and boosts the institutional capacity of our project partners, improving their long-term conservation effectiveness and prospects of attracting further funding. The 2009 programme extension is therefore extremely positive for conservation and for the development of WLT's project partners.

Monitoring during 2009 confirms that overall progress over the three phases of the contract is excellent, with the current tree total under the initial two phases of the programme exceeding the final target commitment by a comfortable safety margin of 270,000. Part-way through year 1 of 'SSE3', WLT is pleased to report that the new project locations in India and Tanzania are adapting well to preliminary site development and subsequent planting activities.



Figure 10. The first year of tree planting underway at Selbalgre Village Forestry Reserve, India. Supervised by WLT partner Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), this activity will help reconnect fragments of habitat, and restore previously degraded forest. The latter is a greater problem than outright deforestation in India, where the populations of many rural communities rely on forests for their livelihoods © WTI.



Figure 11. The onsite nursery at Fundación Pro-Bosque's Cerro Blanco Reserve. The majority of saplings planted under the SSE tree-establishment programme will spend time in such nurseries prior to planting. The overall objective of the programme is to ensure that six trees are planted (and remain standing for at least ten years) for every customer signing on to the SSE Power2 tariff © Fundación Pro-Bosque.

4. Large-scale Carbon Offsetting Projects

In 2008, the Singapore-based maritime services provider, Swire Pacific Offshore Operations Pte Ltd. (SPO) engaged WLT to design a fully verified voluntary carbon offset project. The project is an important part of SPO's already well-established environmental sustainability policy framework, and aims to sequester 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the 20-year project period. In so doing, it would generate sufficient carbon offsets to mitigate the company's residual carbon footprint.

With the agreement of SPO, WLT plans to base the project in Paraguay, focussing specifically on two distinct regions:

- The Paraná Atlantica, San Rafael – an area of critically threatened Atlantic rainforest with extremely high levels of biodiversity, located in the south-east of the country. The main drivers of deforestation in this region include small-scale logging followed by settlement construction, and the demand for cropland for soya bean cultivation.
- The Chaco forest – a region of dry forest in the north east of Paraguay. Based on current projections and logging concessions already awarded, this entire habitat will vanish within around 15 years unless action is taken. Large-scale commercial ranching is the key underlying cause of forest clearance in this area of Paraguay.

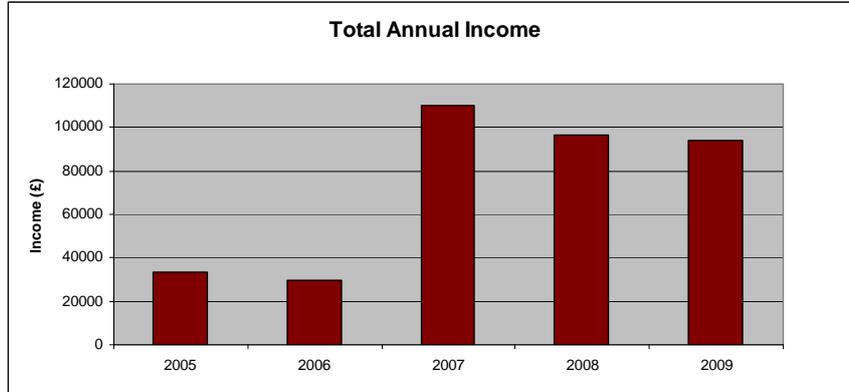
The project will take a pioneering approach, delivering offsets via a combination of avoided deforestation, reforestation and assisted natural regeneration paired with community-based Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). The PES mechanism under development will reward residents of La Amistad, San Rafael, for taking steps to preserve existing forest and/or plant trees on their land. Payments for such activities will ensure that the SPO project not only offsets CO₂ emissions whilst advancing WLT's conservation objectives, but will also have a significant positive socio-economic impact.

WLT was initially contracted for the preliminary design of the offset project. However, in late 2009, following WLT's submission of a Project Design Document (PDD), SPO confirmed their wish for the project to be developed through to final verification. This will involve submission of the project plans for external audit to ensure its compliance with the criteria of two major international standards for voluntary carbon offsetting. In consultation with SPO, WLT have engaged The Rainforest Alliance to conduct this independent audit. The intention is for the project plans to be verified under both the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standard. WLT has already held productive discussions with the validators in preparation for the certification process – this has been scheduled for mid-2010 for the CCB standard, with VCS certification to follow.

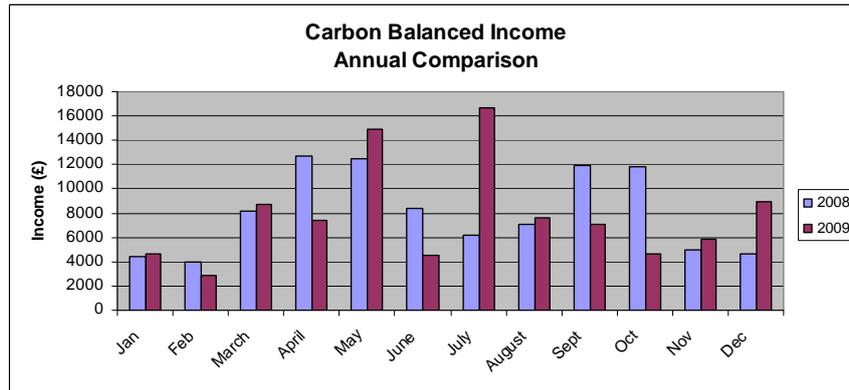
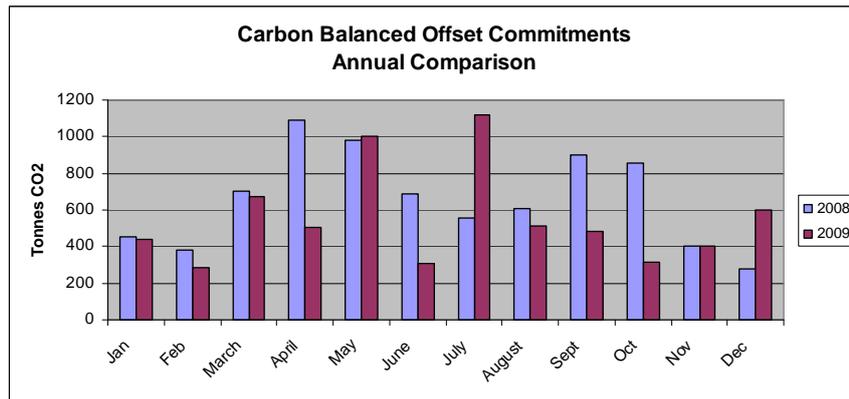
Guyra Paraguay, WLT's Paraguayan partner, have been instrumental in the development of the SPO project and will be the key project implementer. Feasibility issues are still being resolved but, regardless of the final outcome, the Restoration Ecology team is pleased to have been involved in the development of a project that has the potential to make a significant contribution to global conservation efforts in Paraguay.

5. Carbon Balanced Income and Forecast

2009 was a year of financial consolidation for the Carbon Balanced programme, which proved largely resilient to the worst of the economic downturn. Annual Carbon Balanced income of £94,000 was less than 3.0% down on the previous year, and in terms of overall Restoration Ecology funding, this shortfall was more than compensated by income from other activities.



After a strong summer period, highlighted by over £16,000 received in July, financial performance over the third quarter of 2009 was disappointing. However, successive month-on-month income growth thereafter points toward a more promising 2010.



Trends in monthly income over the final quarter have been mirrored by sustained growth during the early part of 2010. At the time of writing, this pattern is consistent with a *marginal* easing in financial conditions within the wider UK economic environment and is supported by considerable interest in the Carbon Balanced programme from potential new corporate donors.

6. Looking to the Future

The World Land Trust is optimistic about prospects for the year ahead, and the continuing development of the Restoration Ecology Programme. Carbon Balanced income and amounts invoiced during the first quarter of 2010 show an improvement on both of the two previous years, while interest in the programme from potential new supporters has also been strong. The roster of Carbon Balanced companies has already expanded to take in Call Assist Ltd., Fulmar Television and Film Ltd., Underworld Products, and Multileasing Ltd.

2010 will mark the first full year of carbon sequestration at Fundación Jocotoco's Rio Canandé Reserve. This reserve makes an extremely important contribution to conservation efforts within Ecuador as a whole and WLT looks forward to reports on project activity and the wildlife present at this site. Likewise, we are pleased to be able to continue working with SSE in developing the third phase of our existing tree-planting partnership, and in so doing, regenerating degraded forest at new sites in India and Tanzania.

The World Land Trust's contract with SPO to deliver a large, fully verified carbon offsetting project represents a major step forward, both for the Trust and for conservation in Paraguay's Chaco and Atlantic rainforest regions. In 2010 the project is expected to move from the developmental stages through to submission for full independent verification.

From the 7th – 18th December 2009, delegates from over 190 countries gathered in Copenhagen for the 15th International UNFCCC Conference of the Parties – otherwise known as the Copenhagen climate summit. While the main negotiations on national emissions reductions were less successful than had been hoped, subsidiary discussions on REDD+ as a mechanism for halting deforestation made considerable progress. REDD+ is now seen as a key tool in arresting further climate change and is certain to play a major role in any future climate protocol. With substantial experience in the use of REDD+, the Restoration Ecology team are confident of being in a strong position to benefit from the opportunities presented by developments at Copenhagen.

The work of the Restoration Ecology Programme would not be possible without the contributions of our corporate and individual supporters throughout the UK and beyond. WLT would like to take this opportunity to thank the people behind these donations for their commitment to addressing climate change and furthering international conservation. We welcome the genuine interest that our supporters show in the conservation work we promote, and will continue to provide as much information on these initiatives as possible.

7. Carbon Balanced Companies 2009

4-Paws Veterinary Centre	Ecoigo	Quills Office Supplies Ltd.
Alder Tree Ltd.	Economics for the	Response Handling.net Ltd.
APH Ltd.	Environment Consultancy	Secure Airparks
Aroma Foods	Finders Genealogists Ltd.	Simoon Travel Ltd.
BeGreener Ltd.	Firstserv Ltd.	Stafford Railway Building
Beyond the Bean	Go-Betweens Couriers Ltd.	Society
Bird Holidays Ltd.	John Heyer Paper Ltd.	Team Aqua
Blue Chip Vacations Ltd.	LoveHoney Ltd.	Transmission AS
Bluefin Leisure Ltd.	Made In Water Ltd.	Travel Nation Ltd.
Boxharry Ltd.	Man Bites Dog Ltd.	Travel Republic Ltd.
Bullet Marketing Ltd.	Mojo Media Ltd.	The Travelling Naturalist
Casey Tree Care &	Nature Picture Library	Tucan Travel Ltd.
Landscape Services Ltd.	Nikwax Ltd.	VW Heritage Parts
Chest of Drawers	Nomadical Ltd.	Centre Ltd.
Clarence Medical Centre	Norfolk County Council	Webmart UK Ltd.
Coreix Ltd.	Onedeeptbreath Ltd.	Wildlife Travel
Denton Corker Marshall	On Demand Technology Ltd.	
Pty Ltd.	Orkney Archaeology Tours Ltd.	

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