

Welcoming corporate and individual commitment



Above: Views over the mountainous scenery at Tapichalaca, Carbon Balanced project location.



Above: Chocó Toucan, (*Ramphastos brevis*) found on the Rio Canandé Reserve, Ecuador.

WLT welcomes the chance to help private individuals and businesses alike address their impact on the climate and do so whilst at the same time contributing to global biodiversity conservation.

- WLT's Ecosystem Services website provides the means for private individuals to calculate their carbon footprint and offset these emissions through donations to the Carbon Balanced programme. Our online carbon calculator can be found on the Ecosystem Services website (see address below).
- Businesses wishing to better understand their annual carbon footprint can submit information for a free carbon audit of their general operations through WLT's online carbon audit form, also accessed through the Ecosystem Services website.

Alternatively, WLT's Ecosystem Services team welcomes the chance to discuss bespoke solutions for organisations with more specialised carbon offsetting requirements. For more information please contact us at the following address:

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World Land Trust
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<http://eco-services.worldlandtrust.org/>

Message from WLT Patron, Sir David Attenborough

"I welcome WLT's Carbon Balanced programme as a way of putting back what we are taking away. I would urge everyone to think deeply about what is important in life and to consider the consequence of daily activities. Balancing carbon emissions with the WLT means that the Trust is able to put even more into our key objectives - acquiring land for conservation."

Sir David Attenborough, OM CH FRS
Patron, WLT

For further information about our Carbon Balanced project design, visit our website: <http://eco-services.worldlandtrust.org/>



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Carbon Balanced
with World Land Trust

The World Land Trust approach to Carbon Balancing



Above: Ocelot, found on Buenaventura Carbon Balanced site, Ecuador.

The World Land Trust (WLT) is an international conservation charity, based in Suffolk, UK. Its innovative Carbon Balanced programme offers individuals and companies a means of offsetting their CO₂ emissions whilst also conserving some of the world's most endangered species and their habitats.

Climate change: an urgent priority

The world is warming and the balance of evidence is that greenhouse gases released by human activities are largely responsible. We can all take action to reduce our own emissions of greenhouse gases, both as individuals and as businesses. Sometimes, though, there will be emissions we simply cannot avoid, at least in the short term. Offsetting is a way to address this problem. The World Land Trust (WLT) is a UK charity that

works with overseas project partners to protect some of the world's most threatened species and their habitats. One way we do this is to help companies and private individuals to offset their unavoidable emissions in a way that also protects outstanding tropical forest sites for wildlife. Our approach is called Carbon Balanced.

In the UK, the Climate Change Act mandates that greenhouse gas emissions must fall by at least 80 per cent by 2050 against 1990 baseline levels. Similar binding policy commitments by other countries are emerging around the world. The UK's statutory five-year Carbon Budgets confirm that emission reductions must be made across all sectors of the economy. Regulation will be a key driving force for change, but increasingly organisations, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, are committed to reducing their impacts on the climate. In addition to carbon reduction initiatives, many organisations are choosing to go further by offsetting those emissions that cannot be avoided.

To address these needs the WLT launched its Carbon Balanced programme in 2005. Carbon Balanced with the WLT achieves offsetting by identifying and protecting forest sites under imminent threat of clearance unless urgent action is taken. To date WLT has focussed on Ecuador, part of a biodiversity 'hotspot', where the Carbon Balanced Programme has supported the purchase, protection and restoration of vital habitat at five sites. The main approach we take is known internationally as Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (plus), or REDD+. So far, WLT Carbon Balanced projects have offset some 50,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise have contributed to global warming.

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Conserving biodiversity while offsetting carbon emissions

All Carbon Balanced projects are carefully designed to satisfy widely recognised international standards governing both their climate and conservation benefits. Project sites are closely monitored to verify the emissions reductions, and by integrating project sites into existing nature reserves managed by the WLT's local partners, Fundación Jocotoco and Nature and Culture International, Ecuador, long-term protection is guaranteed.

Project Snapshot:

Since 1990 Ecuador has experienced higher rates of forest loss than any other South American nation. It remains one of the most ecologically rich areas of the planet but such rates of forest clearance have earned the country an unenviable place amongst the world's most threatened biodiversity hotspots.

Straddling the Andean slopes of Pichincha Volcano above the Ecuadorian capital Quito, the Yanacocha Nature Reserve (see image on cover) protects 960 ha of montane Polylepis forest and a vital watershed for the city. Being just an hour's drive from Quito, and affording spectacular views of Pichincha from its network of forest trails, the reserve is well established as a showcase for wildlife conservation. Visitors are treated to views of numerous hummingbirds, including the Critically Endangered Black-breasted Puffleg, which is found nowhere else on earth and is now the official Emblem of Quito.

The World Land Trust Carbon Balanced project has worked with Fundación Jocotoco to purchase and restore patches of forest here, expanding their Yanacocha reserve and ensuring habitat that would otherwise be lost is protected in perpetuity.



Above: The Black-breasted Puffleg (Eriocnemis nigrivestis), adopted as the Emblem of the city of Quito.

WLT is closely involved with its projects at all stages. The design is carried out in collaboration with local partners, regular site visits are made and the consultation continues through long-term monitoring. For this reason, your offsets are contributing to the protection of these habitats, and their biodiversity, in perpetuity.

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