

What are the costs of Carbon Balancing?



Above: Tapichalaca Carbon Balanced site, Ecuador.



Above: Spectacled Bears are found on Tapichalaca Carbon Balanced site, Ecuador.

The World Land Trust selects project sites for their biodiversity conservation importance, not cheapness of offsets, and tailors each project to best rehabilitate a particular area of land. Costs can therefore vary due to differences in land price and the primary forestry technique utilised. Tree planting is the most expensive process, and protecting standing forest the cheapest.

Offset costs cover all project requirements, including:

- Land purchase for incorporation into a nature reserve
- Purchase of seedlings from local nurseries
- Land preparation, planting and maintenance
- Livestock exclusion
- Equipment and infrastructure
- Field staff and training
- Strict 20-30 year monitoring programme
- Education and research programmes
- Project administration costs for the local partner organisation
- Continued forest protection in perpetuity

WLT reserves 15% of the offset price for its programme costs, which are kept to a minimum. Any difference between offsets income and expenditure is reinvested into more project work, usually for the protection of standing forest.

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



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For up-to-date offset costs, visit our website:
www.carbonbalanced.org

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Carbon Balanced:
with World Land Trust



Above: Buff-winged Starfrontlets, Yanacocha 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

Climate change is probably the greatest challenge facing humanity, threatening the ecology of the entire planet. Yet the emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from human activities continue to accelerate. WLT urges everyone to take direct action immediately: to make an effort to reduce energy use and to offset unavoidable emissions. These two actions will help mitigate the worst effects of climate change. WLT recommends that individuals and companies take these three steps:

- **Calculate your emissions:** You can estimate your individual emissions using our online calculators, and your organisation's emissions by submitting a free online carbon emissions audit form to WLT. These can both be found on our website: www.carbonbalanced.org.
- **Reduce your emissions as much as possible:** Our website provides links to online sources of help and advice.
- **Offset the remainder:** Offset your unavoidable emissions through WLT's Carbon Balanced restoration ecology projects.

Our Restoration Ecology Projects

WLT's carbon projects are designed and managed in collaboration with our overseas non-governmental organisation (NGO) project partners. Our restoration ecology projects have been carefully selected and designed to take a holistic approach, and include additional benefits such as protecting biodiversity, ecological restoration, community participation and sustainable development, all of which give them a much greater value and permanence. These projects are all located on the advancing agricultural frontier of forests, in places where there is an imminent threat of further deforestation.

www.carbonbalanced.org

How offsets are delivered

WLT offsets are delivered through a combination of:

- **Reforestation:** Native tree planting on previously cleared land.
- **Assisted natural regeneration:** Encouraging natural succession on cleared land through protection and enrichment planting.
- **Rehabilitation of degraded forest:** Protecting degraded forests from further damage to encourage growth.
- **Avoided deforestation:** Protecting standing forest which is under imminent threat of clearance.

Protecting endangered species

The majority of WLT's restoration ecology projects are located in Ecuador, and are managed by WLT's project partners, Fundación Jocotoco. Ecuador is biologically mega-diverse, and these reserves, on the slopes of the Andes, encompass **upper montane forest, temperate zone forest, and low-altitude cloud forest**.

Carbon sequestration initiatives include the reforestation and regeneration of degraded areas within the reserves, and the protection of imminently threatened areas of standing forests. Projects are carefully designed to sequester carbon, whilst also conserving and expanding habitats important to endangered species such as **Puma** and **Spectacled Bear**, and bird species including **El Oro Parakeet**, and the **Jocotoco Antpitta**.

Restoration ecology projects also benefit local communities by protecting water supplies to urban areas, and also by providing supplementary income through involvement in tree nurseries, planting and monitoring.

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, both your offsets, and the habitats which they have helped to preserve, can be considered to be protected *in perpetuity*.

Current projects are located in Ecuador and Mexico, and WLT is actively expanding its portfolio, with new projects in different countries being developed all of the time.



Above: Buenaventura Carbon Balanced site, Ecuador.



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

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