



Above: The endangered Yellow-eared Parrot is now protected by a 'Conservation Corridor' covering 16,714 acres and 14 miles, spanning both slopes of the Central Andes. The corridor, in cloud forest and paramo habitat, is home to an extraordinary diversity of threatened and endemic wildlife which includes four other endangered parrot species.

Cover: The main image was taken in the Las Tangaras reserve and the frog is the Lovely Leaf Frog, (*Phyllomedusa venusta*)

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About WLT's Partners: Fundación ProAves

ProAves was created in 1998 following an initiative of a group of people looking at ways to conserve the Yellow-eared Parrot in Colombia. ProAves now has 24 conservation programmes which have resulted in the creation of the largest private reserve system to protect endangered species in the country. The 22 strategically important reserves, covering over 70,000 acres (28,000 ha), protect 68 per cent of all threatened birds in Colombia as well as an important frog reserve.

The Threatened Parrot Conservation Corridor now protects 14 miles for the Yellow-eared Parrot and four other species of endangered parrot.

How you can help

In Colombia the World Land Trust is working with ProAves to help save vital rainforests and their wildlife while there is still time. For just £100 an acre (£50 for half an acre or £25 for a quarter), you can help some of the Earth's most unspoilt tropical forests and their endangered species - some of which are still waiting to be discovered. **Please make your donation today, either for yourself or as a gift. We will provide a certificate and updates on the project, if you wish.**

www.proaves.org

World Land Trust
Blyth House, Bridge Street
Halesworth
Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1986 874 422
Fax: +44 (0) 1986 874 425
Email: info@worldlandtrust.org

US donors may contact: info@worldlandtrust-us.org
www.worldlandtrust-us.org Registered US-based 501 (c) (3) public charity in the USA.

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Project Brief: Colombia



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Still time to save Colombia's tropical forests

World Land Trust (WLT) is working with local partner organisation ProAves to protect threatened Chocó Forests which support some of the greatest concentrations of endemic birds, butterflies, amphibians and orchids in the world. There is a surge of development in Colombia as it becomes more politically stable, leading to new roads, housing and other development. WLT sees a real opportunity to save pristine habitats while they still survive and is working with ProAves to create buffer zones and corridors from being logged and becoming fragmented. A priority is to buy road frontages as roads are currently being widened and paved and this will inevitably bring investors and businesses to the region looking for roadside properties to develop.



Above: Spectacled Bear in Colombia.

The Chocó is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots and Spectacled Bears (also known as Andean Bears) are one of the many Vulnerable species found in these forests. Not all Spectacled Bears have 'spectacles' as in the case of the above individual, a reason why scientists generally prefer to refer to them as Andean Bears.

A haven for wildlife: species new to science waiting to be discovered

The Chocó rainforests of Colombia are one of the richest areas in the world for endemic species. The focus of the project is Las Tangaras in the Rio Atrato watershed in north western Colombia. This is one of the world's wettest places and one of the most diverse and important rainforest sites on Earth.

The aim is to protect rainforest from 200 to 12,900 feet above sea level. A study in the lowland rainforest and highland cloud forests, in September 2010, uncovered a wealth of amphibians, butterflies, plant and bird species in just a few days. The study group was actually looking for the Mesopotamia Beaked Toad which has not been seen since 1900 and is considered Critically Endangered.

Although they did not find this toad, they did discover three amphibian species thought to be new to science, now waiting to be described, including a toad with stunning ruby-coloured eyes, another with a long beak, and a frog with 'racing stripes' on its legs. It is estimated that of Colombia's amphibian species, nearly 15 per cent have been discovered in the last 30 years. Indications are that the region could hold one of the most important concentrations of species new to science left in the world.

www.worldlandtrust.org

A biodiversity 'hotspot', but where is the Chocó?



Left: The Chocó rainforest, marked in red on the map, extends from Panama, through Colombia to northern Ecuador. The Chocó is one of the last coastal tropical forests surviving today and listed in the world's 34 global biodiversity hotspots. Collectively these hotspots contain more than half the planet's plant species and 77 per cent of all terrestrial vertebrate species, in just 2.3 per cent of the Earth's surface.



Protecting the habitat of the world's most poisonous species: a one-inch frog

The Golden Poison Frog, (*Phyllobates terribilis*), is believed to be the world's most poisonous species, despite growing no more than one inch long. Indigenous Emberá people of Colombia have used its powerful venom for centuries to tip their blowgun darts when hunting.

It is only found on the Pacific coast of Colombia, and is now on the edge of extinction through loss of its Chocó rainforest habitat. Although the population in its small range is abundant, deforestation is causing its demise. WLT have successfully worked with ProAves to purchase and protect a key area of forest where there are known to be healthy populations at risk.



Be kind to snakes

In a campaign entitled '**Las Serpientes somos tus Amigas**' (*Snakes: we are your friends*) ProAves are working in schools and with local communities to encourage an understanding of amphibians and reptiles of the rainforest they all share. The message is to learn to identify them and understand more about which are harmful and which are harmless, and at all times to respect fellow forest inhabitants.

