



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

news

ISSUE N° 29 AUTUMN 2007

Sponsored by ENTERPRISEplants



*Wildlife of the
Western Ghats of India*



*Wildlife of the
Atlantic Rainforest of Brazil*



*Wildlife of the Coastal
Steppe of Patagonia*



*Wildlife of the
Pantanal of Paraguay*

World Land Trust
 Blyth House, Bridge Street
 Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK
 Tel: 01986 874422
 Fax: 01986 874425
 Email: info@worldlandtrust.org

Lo-call number 0845 054 4422*
 *If you dial this number you will be charged
 at local (rather than national) rate – UK only.
 Not available to mobile phone users

guest editorial

Live from the Atlantic Forest, Brazil

from Simon Barnes

Patrons:

Sir David Attenborough CH, FRS
 David Gower, OBE

Honorary President:

Dr Gerard A Bertrand

Trustees:

Albertino Abela
 Gil S Child
 Jane Krish
 Dr Simon Lyster
 Bruce Pearson
 Prof Renton Righelato
 Dr Nigel Simpson

Council Members:

Dr Diana Bell
 Kevin Cox
 Rohini Finch
 John Fuller (USA)
 Merloyd Ludington (USA)
 Alan Martin
 Iain Orr
 Jonathan Self
 Elaine Shaughnessy
 Byron Swift (USA)
 Nancy Weiss (USA)
 Sue Wells

Chief Executive: John A Burton

Hon Treasurer: Mark Leaney

Special Advisor: Peter Wilkinson

Project Partners & Contacts:

Argentina:

Fundación Patagonia Natural
 Exec Director: José María Musmeci

Belize: Programme for Belize

Managing Director: Edilberto Romero.
 USA Liaison, Bancroft Pool,
 Massachusetts Audubon Society

Belize Audubon Society

Exec Director: Anna Dominguez Hoare

Brazil: Reserva Ecológica de Guapi Assu

Project Director: Nicholas Locke

UK Representative: Alan Martin

Ecuador: Fundación Jocotoco

Chief Exec: Francisco Sornoza

UK Representative: Dr Nigel Simpson

Fundación Pro-Bosque

Exec Director: Eric von Horstman

EcoMinga Foundation

Treasurer: Lou Jost

India: Wildlife Trust of India

Exec Director: Vivek Menon

Mexico: Grupo Ecológico Sierra

Gorda Technical Officer:

Roberto Pedraza Ruiz

Paraguay: Guyra Paraguay

Exec Director: Alberto Yanosky

Philippines: Philippine Reef &

Rainforest Foundation

Project Director: Gerardo L Ledesma

World Land Trust - US
 PO Box 381, Deerfield, NH 03037
 Tel: (001) 603 284 6200
 Email: info@worldlandtrust-us.org
www.worldlandtrust-us.org

Exec Director:

Byron Swift
 Email: byronswift@netscape.com

Director of Conservation:

Dr Robert Ridgely

Email: RRidgely@worldlandtrust-us.org

Director of Operations:

Richard W Moore

Email: RMoore@worldlandtrust-us.org

Office Manager:

Emilie Coulter

Email: ECoulter@worldlandtrust-us.org

Let me tell you about two journeys. Both of them in Brazil. Both in Atlantic rainforest, which might be the most endangered habitat on earth; there's a bit more than five per cent left. And I wanted to visit the best and the thickest bit of forest within range, and that meant climbing: most of the stuff on the flat has already gone.

I did the climbing on a horse, whippet-thin and of boundless stamina. Up we went, into the forest, a precipitous path that would have a human climber using hands in places. And as we climbed, so the forest closed in. All was a damp, green growth. Vines spun down from trees; trunks were covered in soggy mosses, branches carried impossible burdens of bromeliads. Up into cloud and claggy drizzle: and the eternal mystery before me: greener and darker with every step. The trunks soared upwards to the vaulted roof of the canopy.

Nothing was stirring but me and my horse, weaving between trees. There is an awful lot of animal life in these forests, but it is thinly spread: there are marmosets and woolly spider monkeys, there are pumas and sloths. There are bizarre and elaborate birds, too; though it's all amazingly hard to see. But it doesn't matter: in the rainforest, you reverse your normal understanding of natural priorities. Here, it seems that trees are what count: mammals are very much second-best. Between hoof-fall and hoof-fall, I could hear the whisper of growth.

The second journey was on foot, in another forest, this one much further south. The nature of the vegetation was different: the forests that survive here are dominated by the araucarias, otherwise known as monkey-puzzle trees, but with a statuesque beauty missing from those rather silly garden trees.

An ocelot scat, fresh and stinky on the ground. An armadillo burrow. The place where the red howler monkeys chorus at dawn: alas, this time deserted. A forest pool, surrounded by a glorious cloud of absurdly diverse butterflies. And everywhere, the feeling that this was a forest of stature, of majesty, of colossal importance. It is impossible to walk in such a place without a feeling of reverence.

The difference between these two forest excursions was not that one forest has this or that tree, this or that creature living within it. The difference that matters is that one forest is safe and the other is not. The first forest was bought by the Reserva Ecológica de Guapi Assu (REGUA) helped

with funds from the World Land Trust, and it now forms a spectacular place (visit it, there's a fabulous lodge) that is profoundly beautiful and which belongs to the forces of conservation. It is surrounded by more forest in private hands: and naturally, REGUA and the Trust are looking to take in more land, more trees, more life.

Down south, many of the forest remnants are in private hands, in rambling chunks and ribbons that wind among the soy plantations. They are legally protected these days: but enforcement is another matter entirely. Besides, governments and policies change.

But there are possibilities. I went there with John Burton, CEO of the Trust, while he had exploratory conversations about the safeguarding of these forests. It was vividly clear that this was a place where you could buy up land and establish wildlife corridors between one remaining chunk of forest and another. There was hope here all right: hope in local enthusiasm, local patriotism, in sheer local delight of the forest. A band of purplish jays cackled like magpies: they are araucaria specialist, and the pride with which they were pointed out was a sign, maybe, of good things to come.

And I was struck by two things. By fragility, and by strength. The forests are fragile things, we know that or we wouldn't be involved with the Trust. Away from the forest, one can see nothing but their weakness: but once you are under the canopy, you can feel nothing but their strength: their deep defiant resilience.

This pattern continues in our efforts to save them. We know that human will is a fragile thing: that humans are swayed this way and that, by politics and money. But here was the tentative beginning of a very strong thing. I saw the things that can be done when I took my horse ride up into the forested hill of REGUA: I saw the possibilities of what the WLT could achieve and save in the araucaria forest.

Simon Barnes went to Brazil with John Burton in August to see what the WLT's partners can achieve, and has written about his experiences in *The Times* and elsewhere. A long-term supporter of the Trust, Simon also assigns all the Public Lending Rights in his books to WLT's Green Ink project. He lives in Suffolk with his family and is passionate about saving wilderness.

Dear WLT:

"I'm worried about palm oil", "Can you tell us more about how your finances work?", "Does my donation really make any difference?" and "What is Cool Earth?"

John Burton, WLT Chief Executive, replies

What is Cool Earth if not something that WLT has been doing for nearly two decades?

We were very surprised to read Frank Field's column in the Independent introducing Cool Earth as if the idea of investing in rainforest was a novelty. No mention of the WLT's having been doing this for nearly 20 years. I keep feeling bothered and irritated at the number of new charities which spring up with, so far as I can see, just the same aims as those that already exist. Wouldn't it be more sensible and economical to back an existing successful charity than start a new one? Be sure that we'll stick with the WLT!

Professor Andor Gomme
Church Lawton, Stoke on Trent

We too were very surprised, and still cannot quite understand why they were set up. We have tried to make contact with Frank Field, but have received no response. We are also concerned that the huge publicity and razamatazz with which it was launched could produce negative effects in many countries, who are rightly concerned about NGOs, and others from the developed world, buying up their country, with little or no concern for the local communities.

Palm Oil Threat to Rainforest?

As a WLT supporter I write to inquire whether you have any information on palm oil products as I understand that it is responsible for the destruction of much rainforest. I should be interested to know in which products it is found so that I can avoid buying them if possible. I am sure that other supporters would find this information useful if you printed it in WLT News. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs J D Dixon, Teddington, Middx

You are absolutely right. Friends of the Earth estimate that palm oil is present in 1 in 10 supermarket products from chocolate to bread from lipstick to detergents; it is the most significant cause of rainforest loss in Malaysia and Indonesia.

We spoke with the Information Office at FoE, who are running an effective campaign against palm oil, but one of the main problems is that it is virtually impossible to avoid buying products using palm oil as it's in so many everyday items. There is good news in that an association has been created by organizations carrying out their activities in and around the entire supply chain for palm oil, and this has been signed up to by most of the major supermarkets including Waitrose, Tesco, Sainsburys, Asda and Morrisons, but it will take time. For more information go to www.sustainable-palmoil.org. FoE also says: do not underestimate the power of the letter, be it to your MP, local supermarket or even the Indonesian Ambassador in the UK: Dr R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Indonesian Embassy, 38 Grosvenor Square, London W1K 2HW or see http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/press_for_change/indonesian_ambassador/index.html

WLT has also told FoE that if an opportunity for acquiring land that might otherwise be cleared for palms arose we would be interested in co-operating.

Most of the forest destruction for palm oil was, until recently, taking place in South-East Asia, but it has already started in the Amazon and other parts of South America. But in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, the biggest threats to remaining forests, as well as the grasslands, (often even more threatened), is from Soy beans. And yet another threat looms from biofuels, including the rapidly growing market for ethanol from sugar cane. The WLT has taken a lead in this field - see our website:

www.worldlandtrust.org/about/biofuel-policy.htm

Could you give us a break down of finances?

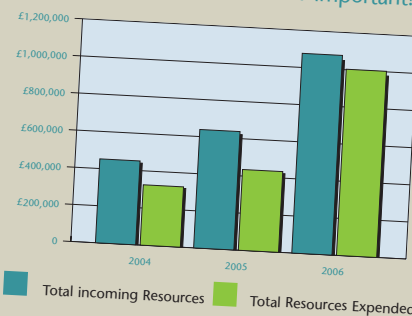
... I thought the last newsletter was rather good in explaining how you deal with the money and liaising with various overseas organizations...perhaps further articles explaining the break down of finances could help other supporters like myself understand your work more. For example when I read about the large earning potentials of some people I often think that my own contributions are rather insignificant, or that you are working closely with a similar American organisation and the financial clout that I imagine they have. I mention this purely that it may be food for thought for future issues.

Rev'd Jonathan Hyde
Winchmore Hill, London

To answer your first question: WLT aims to be as transparent as possible regarding its finances, and you will find detailed accounts on our website. The graph right demonstrates the income growth for the years 2004-2006, making possible a significant increase in transfers to projects.

As far as your second question is concerned, our individual partners who make regular donations, are the backbone

of our operation. These regular donations, whether they are £5 a month or £100 a year, allow us to plan ahead. And the fact that a significant number of corporate donors are now supporting us - Allied Irish Bank, for instance have donated €250,000 - is not unconnected with the fact that we have a wide donor base made up of individual supporters. This year (2007) has seen a dramatic increase in donation across the board, meaning that we can help our overseas partners save more land. It also means we can develop new partnerships in different countries which we are in the process of doing. You are VERY important!



For friends and loved ones
For Christmas, Birthday,
Anniversary, or anytime

£50 Buys One Acre and saves
it forever
(or £25 for Half an Acre)

The package includes

- Personalised certificate,
- Greeting card for your message
- WLT News and project information



Saving Real Rainforests in Brazil

John Burton reports:



Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu



My visit to Brazil this August was for three main purposes. First to catch up with all the activities of REGUA, in particular to visit the land needing to be purchased to complete the corridor which the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria (BIAZA) are raising funds for. Second was to take Peter Hughes, a journalist from *The Telegraph*, and Simon Barnes of *The Times*, to see what is being achieved, and to generate publicity. Regular readers of WLT News, as well as readers of *The Times*, and *Birds* magazine, will know and appreciate Simon's writing. And for that reason, I will stick to the facts, and let Simon's inspired writings convey a flavour of the trip. Read his editorial in this newsletter, and his pieces in *The Times*, such as.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/simon_barnes/

The third reason was to visit the south of Brazil where Alpro, manufacturers of Soya milk, were concerned about the fate of the forests. Alpro buys its Soya from a group of mainly small (and in some cases very small) farmers, growing organic soy beans, together with other organic crops. Unfortunately soya has been given a bad name, largely because of the massive destruction of forests and other habitats that has taken place, mostly to grow feed for cattle and other livestock. These huge farms, are incredibly intensive (see right), and use huge quantities of pesticides, as well as fertilizers, which in turn run off and affect the surrounding countryside. The impact of this large-scale destruction has already resulted in climate change, with several droughts in the state of Paraná, in recent years.

It was the first time I had seen Araucaria forests. Better known as Monkey Puzzle or Paraná Pine, of course I knew it as a specimen tree but had never seen the huge stands we were to encounter, nor of the size of them: one of the largest we measured was 4.6 m around. In the forest they lose nearly all the side branches and end up looking like enormous toadstools from a distance. The organic farmers realise better than most others the importance of leaving large areas of forests, particularly as a way of maintaining water supplies. In addition to preventing further CO₂ being released into the atmosphere, forests also play a vital role in water conservation, yet another reason for supporting WLT's work.

Saving what is left . . . Restoring what has been lost in the Atlantic Rainforest



Left: These are the forests and rivers of the Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu (REGUA) reserve. They have been saved and survive in all their glory.

Even though logging was prohibited two decades ago, virtually every lowland forest, including the unique swamp forests, were cut down and replaced with pasture. Illegal hunting and urban sprawl are, even today, threatening the remaining forests. The photograph below demonstrates the intensive farming which has replaced the forests.

REGUA's mission is to save the forests of the upper catchment of the Guapiaçu river basin, located within the municipality of Cachoeiras de Macacu in Rio de Janeiro state, 70km north of Rio. REGUA was established in 1996 by a group of local landowners with the aim to preserve the forest on their lands. WLT was able to assist with foundation funding in those early days of the project. The geographic characteristics of this region have contributed immensely to its conservation: high altitudes and steep slopes with difficult access. REGUA is currently responsible for the care of over 13,000 acres (5,500 ha) of prime Atlantic Forest, 6,000 acres of which it owns, and its members privately own the other 7,000 acres. WLT has recently sent further funding to purchase another critical parcel of land.



Forest restoration, the next best thing

With funds raised through the carbon offset project, WLT is providing South American project partners with funds to restore land that has been cleared, and regeneration is well underway. It takes many years for the full biodiversity to be restored but, with protection and monitoring, it is possible. The trees on the right were planted by REGUA two years ago and as they grow to their former glory wildlife will move in.



Saving tropical forests with WLT will lock up valuable carbon and help off-set the damage caused by modern day living. It is also an effective tool for saving biodiversity. To find out more visit our websites:

www.worldlandtrust.org & www.carbonbalanced.org

Or telephone for info pack: 01986 874 422

Protecting and reintroducing rainforest species

And small-scale tourism helping the project's sustainability

New Land Purchase in Brazil saves Woolly Monkey habitat

WLT has recently been successful in securing funds from the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands for additional land purchase in the Guapi Assu river basin.

REGUA identified this area as a high priority because of its strategic location linking two sections of the Três Picos State Park (in which it is located), and the risk from imminent development. Buying and protecting this land will ensure that the Park does not get divided, which would restrict the movement of animals on its southern edge, and, by extending the protected area, wildlife, particularly larger mammals, can move more safely. One of the world's most endangered monkeys – the Southern Muriqui (also known as the Woolly Spider Monkey) has been observed here.

The funding comes from IUCN-NL's Small Grants for the Purchase of Nature programme, which has previously funded land purchase at two other WLT project sites – the Chaco-Pantanal in Paraguay and the Elephant Corridor in Kerala, India.

Brazil's largest Primate

Muriqui have been seen on a number of trails throughout the REGUA reserve, and group sightings indicate that there is a healthy population of males, females and young. A group of 15 individuals was seen earlier this year on REGUA's 'red trail'.

The Muriqui is the largest primate within the Neotropics and is Brazil's largest endemic mammal species. Their total range is now limited to fragments of Atlantic forest. The world's total population could be less than 1,000 individuals.

The combined area protected by REGUA, Três Picos State Park and Serra dos Orgãos National Park, provide continuous forest cover of approximately 144,000 acres, (60,000 ha), which is large enough for several separate populations of Muriqui to survive without direct competition, although they do not show signs of being territorial.

Little is known about the lifespan and habits of the Muriqui but, with further research and surveying, REGUA hopes to be able to help increase the understanding of Muriqui ecology while providing a safe haven for them to live and breed.

www.regua.co.uk

The Guapi Assu Bird Lodge



Guapi Assu Bird Lodge is a small and beautifully situated rainforest lodge which aims to raise funds to support the sustainability of the reserve. Sitting on a hill with stunning views over the reserve, there is a well maintained trail network that provides excellent access to secondary lowland forest, wetlands and high altitude habitats containing primary

forest, elfin forest and unspoilt rivers and waterfalls. The lodge is comfortable and the home cooking excellent; accommodation is for up to 12 people and all rooms have great views.

By visiting you will not only have an unforgettable rainforest experience, but you will be contributing directly to REGUA's conservation work.



Spectacular Birds

To date 448 species have been recorded on REGUA's reserve, including 83 Atlantic Forest endemics and 51 Brazilian endemics.

Key species include: Spot-billed Toucanet (above left): Masked Duck, White-necked Hawk, Giant Snipe, Blue-bellied Parrot, Saw-billed Hermit, Crescent-chested Puffbird, White-bibbed Antbird, Black-checked Gnatcatcher, Shrike-like Cotinga, (above right) and Bare-throated Bellbird.

The critically endangered Red-billed Currawong is part of a reintroduction project currently taking place, as is the Black-fronted Piping Guan.

Letter from Brazil

"Yesterday I read in the newspaper about your purchase of a portion of Pantanal which is why I am getting in touch with you.

I would like to express my gratitude for your inspiring work to protect the wonders of this planet. I'm Brazilian and live in an area where the Rain Forest has been destroyed and it is so good to find out that there are serious people struggling to save the tiny portion that still remains. Thanks a lot on behalf of Mata Atlântica!!"

Paula Romano
Santo André
Greater São Paulo, Brazil

To find out more or make a booking at the Guapi Assu Bird Lodge please visit the REGUA website : www.guapiassubirdlodge.com or email Nicholas Locke at aregua@terra.com.br

Saved from Extinction by Fundación Jocotoco

The emblem of the organisation breeding on reserve



The Jucotoco Antpitta is the emblem of Fundación Jocotoco (FJ), a WLT partner organisation in Ecuador. This species of antpitta was only discovered in 1997 and FJ's first reserve at Tapichalaca was set up to protect the critically threatened habitat where they are found. Almost the entire known population of the Jucotoco Antpittas occurs in this one location and the best place for viewing them is in an area of bamboo thicket quite close to the Tapichalaca visitor lodge.

In order to reduce disturbance in the forest by visitors, a pair of antpittas have been trained to answer a call from the warden, and one bird has been fitted with tiny transmitter so that its activities can be monitored more closely. Very little is known about the habits of endemic birds in the Ecuador reserves and learning more about their movements will identify areas which need protection to help their numbers increase.



Above: An adult Jucotoco Antpitta is fitted with tiny transmitter by Mery.



Right: This young Jucotoco Antpitta left the nest about two week's before this photograph was taken; it is the first ever sighting of a juvenile Jucotoco after 9 years of searching.

Camera Traps catch Wildlife Unawares

Ivan Samuels has introduced camera traps into the Buenaventura and Rio Canandé FJ reserves, and has trained wardens to fit and

download the memory cards. (On the left Darwin is checking a camera in the forest). These cameras, equipped with infrared triggers, not only photograph wildlife which humans haven't seen, but also provide invaluable information on their preferred habitats. Although the photographs aren't of high quality they give a wonderful immediacy to the wildlife that is all around, deep in the forests.

Pumas have been captured on by camera traps at both the Buenaventura (below) and Rio Canandé reserves, as have Jaguar, Ocelot, Margay, Collared Peccary and a host of other wildlife.



Left: This composite photograph was artistically constructed by Nigel Simpson, WLT Trustee and co-founder of Fundación Jocotoco, from a dozen photographs taken on the Tapichalaca Reserve. In pride of place is the Jucotoco Antpitta, together with other rare and endemic plant, bird and reptile species protected at Tapichalaca. Photos by Nigel Simpson, Lou Jost and Martin Reid.



Ecuador Update

Land purchase adds protected land to three reserves



New Land Purchase protects habitats for endangered parakeets

WLT has recently made funding transfers to Fundación Jocotoco to increase the size of both the Tapichalaca and Buenaventura reserves.

The new land purchase at Buenaventura was considered a priority as it protects the key habitat of the El Oro Parakeet, only discovered in 1980.

Nest boxes for El Oro Parakeet

El Oro Parakeet is now only known to occur in the Buenaventura reserve. In an attempt to boost numbers Fundación Jocotoco installed 39 nest boxes which they have been closely monitoring. The boxes have proved to be very successful during the last nesting season: at least three boxes were in use with 10 eggs laid and several young fledged.



Golden-plumed Parakeets nesting in Wax palms

The Golden-plumed Parakeet numbers are thought to be as low as 400 individuals. They only occur in fragmented habitats on the east slope of the Andes, from northern Colombia and Ecuador to Peru, in temperate cloud and elfin forest.

The birds above right were photographed on the border of the Christopher Parsons sector of the Tapichalaca Reserve. They depend on Wax palms in which to make their nests, and feed on Podocarpus cones. Both tree species are being lost through deforestation and this does not bode well for the future of these parakeets outside protected areas.

On Palm Sunday this year there was a high profile campaign in Quito, supported by the church, to encourage people to wave corn stalks and branches from ornamental plants instead of traditional palm fronds and the woven crosses previously made from Wax palm, in an attempt to alert people to the plight of the Golden-plumed Parakeet.

The Christopher Parsons Rainforest was purchased with funds raised by WLT in memory of Christopher Parsons, a WLT Trustee, who died in 2002. He was the producer of *Life on Earth* and a close friend of Sir David Attenborough. The Christopher Parsons sector has recently been increased by a further 1,200 acres (500 ha) with funds raised by WLT and WLT-US, together with the American Bird Conservancy.



The Cerro Candelaria Reserve

The Candelaria reserve project is of great strategic importance to maintain connectivity between the northeast and southeast Andes of Ecuador.

The long term goal is to purchase the narrow band of forest connecting the Sangay National Park and the Los Llanganates National Park. But the first stage is to create a reserve of 5,000 acres (2113 ha) consisting mainly of primary cloud forest and pristine páramo (tropical alpine grasslands). The map below shows the strategic importance of the area we want to protect.



Lou Jost, Fundación Ecominga, reports:

"Everything is on track for the Candelaria Reserve. We have already bought the small buffer property at the entrance to the main property and are in the process of buying the main property. WLT has supported the land purchase of this reserve in its entirety. We send out thanks to WLT supporters..."

The sellers of the main property are interested in working for us as wardens and they would be ideal for the job. They have been protecting the land and keeping out hunters and orchid thieves..."

The reserve recently hosted our first four student volunteers who camped for a few days and explored the buffer property. Their notes will help us plan routes for trails... They noted lots of Cock-of-the-Rock, and many rocky canyons which must be good nesting sites for them..."

There are good numbers of Spectacled Bear, and signs of Mountain Tapirs and several monkey species, not to mention the orchids. Cerro Candelaria is THE richest site in the world for Teagueia orchids with 16 species new to science found here recently."

Saving the Pantanal of Paraguay



The Pantanal is a vast, slow-moving wetland, that extends across western Brazil, finally emptying into the Paraguay River. Although only a tiny part of the Pantanal occurs in Paraguay, it is in this edge habitat, where it meets the drier palm savannahs and chaco, that wildlife abounds. This is some of the least-explored habitat in the world and much of it is true wilderness.

Located in the northeastern corner of western Paraguay, the Pantanal goes south along the Paraguay river, typified by medium-height sub-humid forest, wetlands, and from time to time, flooded forests.

Wildlife of the Pantanal

These Giant Otters (right) visit the Three Giants Lodge on a daily basis, and have learnt to recognise the whistles of the workmen building the lodge. They appear very inquisitive, as does a Jaguar, who pads around regularly. Other wildlife that you might encounter at The Three Giants could include Capybara, Marsh Deer, Grey Brocket Deer, Iguana and Caiman and possible Ocelot, as well as the other two 'giants': Giant Anteater and Giant Armadillo. Bird species include a host of water birds including Pantanal specialities: Mato Grosso Antbird, Jabiru Storks, Greater Rhea, Great Kiskadee and Crested Oropendula.



WIN a copy of a new, unique book on the Pantanal. See review on page 11 and competition on back page



San Rafael Reserve

San Raphael, the largest remnant of the Atlantic Rainforest in Paraguay, is 200 km from Asunción, the capital. The Reserve protects nearly 15,000 acres (6,200 ha) with over 300 bird species, including the Crested Eagle and King Vulture and 40 mammal species recorded.

The Kanguery Field Station can accommodate up to 8 adventurous guests. The best time to visit is during the dry season between May and September.

Dear Alberto,

(wrote Liz Cramer, Minister of Tourism in Paraguay to Alberto Yanosky, Exec. Director of Guyra Paraguay)

I AM IN LOVE WITH THE THREE GIANTS LODGE IN THE PANTANAL! When I finish my job as Minister for Tourism I want to work for at least a month, asking only food and a bed. I came away from my visit with a very special feeling and will do all I can to share my enthusiasm for all you have achieved for this marvellous area. Congratulations!
(translation from Spanish)

The Three Giants Lodge in the Chaco Pantanal Reserve: now receiving guests. See the Pantanal and what WLT has helped save for yourself



The Three Giants Lodge is located in the Pantanal, close to the border with Brazil and Bolivia. As well as Pantanal (wetland) the area comprises Chaco (grassland) and palm savannah (dry forest). This is one of the least explored places on Earth and getting to the Lodge is quite an adventure. Arrangements are made by Guyra Paraguay whose efficiency we can vouch for. You can go either by land which takes one and a half days by truck, crossing 900 km of the Gran Chaco, or you can fly from Asuncion (two-and-a-half hours) and then a one hour boat trip. Once you are there you might never want to leave, which was the case for the Minister of Tourism recently (see above).

India - Success in the Garo Hills And elephants reclaim their land in Kerala



WLT partnered with Wildlife Trust of India in 2003 to protect critical corridors of land between protected forests, to enable elephants to move safely, and to avoid human-elephant conflicts.

The first corridor WLT assisted with was the Siju-Rewak corridor - a 1,700 acre (700 ha) chunk of land in Meghalaya State. This is one of five corridors identified in Meghalaya, located within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, in the South Garo Hills. India is estimated to have an Asian elephant population of 28,000, with 1,900 living in Meghalaya. Protection of the other four corridors is still a priority.

The Siju-Rewak corridor is now fully funded and although Wildlife Trust of India's work is far from complete in terms of sustainability and support for the relocated village, the elephants can now cross the Simsang river in safety (see photograph below) as they move between the Siju Wildlife Sanctuary and the Rewak Forest Reserve.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this corridor: you have helped protect these elephants.



Elephants in the Park

As we go to press UK charity Elephant Family, are midway through their 'Trunks meet Trunks' exhibition in Hyde Park. They have commissioned a herd of life-sized willow elephants to raise awareness and funds for wildlife corridors in India and have pledged £120,000 to the WLT/WTI Kerala elephant corridor.



"It looked like a battlefield. Coconut palms hanging at a tilt, prostrate jack fruit trees with gashes in the trunk as if someone had repeatedly stabbed them. A heap of branches mixed with mud where a coffee plantation once stood. Deep footprints and mounds of elephant dung in the paddy fields where elephants had wallowed. The message was clear: This is our home and trespassers are not welcome", reported Jose Louies.

It was just two weeks after the 4 families who use to live in this section of the Tirunelli-Kudrakote corridor in Kerala had been relocated, and already wildlife had started moving in. The families had been provided with alternative land and houses with funds from WLT and IUCN Netherlands.



Above: Four families have been relocated so far and this photograph shows the official handing over ceremony.

Right: These families can now grow their crops without fear of elephant damage.



This corridor covers a portion of the Wayanad district in Kerala and forms an important pathway for elephants moving between the Begur and Brahmagiri reserve forests in Karnataka.

The first section (approx 9 acres) is now safe for wildlife - the village has been happily relocated, the electric fences, trenches and fire crackers have been removed. But there is still much to be done to protect elephants all over the Indian sub-continent. WTI have identified 88 elephant corridors currently in use: 22 in the north east, 20 each in southern and central India, 14 in northern West Bengal and 12 in the northwest. This is the third corridor to be protected.



Saving more than Elephants

Ensuring the survival of 'flagship' species, such as elephants, requires the protection of the whole habitat, which means that elephant corridors also safeguard a wealth of irreplaceable biodiversity at the same time. In the Rewak-Siju corridor, as well as Elephants, Tigers, Clouded Leopard, Jungle Cat, Barking Deer, Rhesus Macaque and Capped Langur have also been recorded.

In Kerala the Kabala River, which runs close to the corridor is an important source of water for wildlife during the summer, and the moist deciduous forests also provide refuge for Tigers. It would be wonderful if India's rarest mammal, The Malabar Civet, last seen half a century ago in the forests of Kerala, was found to survive here.

Working with WLT-US - differently but with the same aim: Saving more land for conservation



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Byron Swift, Executive Director of WLT-US, and his wife, Valeria, were married earlier this year and spent their honeymoon in Turkey in July. Byron has dedicated much of his career over the past 23 years to helping local partners establish and support protected areas in Latin America.

One of his fellow-directors (of WLT-US) is Dr Robert Ridgely, also a founder of WLT's Ecuadorian partners, Fundación Jocotoco, and a leading expert on the birds of South America. He is co-author of three books on neotropical ornithology: *The Birds of Panama*, *The Birds of Ecuador* and *The Birds of South America*.

This past summer marked the first anniversary of WLT's working partnership with World Land Trust-US. In its first year WLT-US more than doubled its project support to US\$900,000 and funds have been transferred to projects supported by both WLT and WLT-US.

Putting these newly available funds to immediate good use, WLT-US has also been initiating projects of their own. One such project protects the Blue-throated Macaw in Bolivia where a 1,450 acre (600 ha) site is being purchased. These macaws only occur in Llanos de Mojos in northern Bolivia and they have been relentlessly captured for the pet trade in the past. They are now critically endangered and estimates are that there are fewer than 150 left in the wild. However, they do breed relatively easily and with their habitat secure and protected it should be possible to help boost their numbers considerably.

In Costa Rica, WLT-US is supporting research on Mangrove Hummingbird, Yellow-billed Cotinga and Black-cheeked Ant Tanager, all critically threatened endemics on the Osa Peninsula. WLT has had an involvement on the Osa Peninsula for over ten years when we worked with the TUVFA Foundation to encourage *campesino* farmers on the peninsula to

resist selling their rainforest farms to speculators. This project was extremely successful and threats from development are no longer as pressing.

WLT-US is working alongside WLT to support REGUA's efforts in the Atlantic rainforest and has also initiated a new project in Brazil. This is at Fazenda Alamos in partnership with local organisation Associação Plantas do Nordeste (APNE) and the project aims to protect *caatinga*: The name *caatinga* (pronounced 'ca-chin-gaa') is a Tupi word meaning "white forest" or "white vegetation" and is the arid thorn shrub of North eastern Brazil. Many endemic bird species depend on this rapidly disappearing habitat and only last year the Caatinga Woodpecker was rediscovered after an 80 year gap.

It pays to be partners. When several tracts of Andean rainforest in Ecuador suddenly became available six months ago, after years of negotiations, WLT and WLT-US were able to raise the necessary funds resulting in more than 1,500 acres (625 ha) being saved with Fundación Jocotoco. And WLT-US has been able to fund the purchase of a site for an education centre to be run by the indigenous community at FJ's Yanacocha Reserve. The acquisition of this land will save more habitat for the critically endangered Pale-headed Brush Finch.

www.worldlandtrust-us.org

Supporters in the USA can now make tax efficient donations through WLT-US: www.worldlandtrust-us.org/supporting/index



Catching up with The Sargan Family 17 years on

Kate Ailsa Sargan (*front left*) received a unique Christening gift from her parents back in 1990 when they 'bought' her 40-acres for Programme for Belize, saying "We want to try to help give her a world to look forward to".

We published a photograph of baby Kate, with Mum and Dad, in *PFB News* (as it was then). A few year's later along came Sophie (*right*) and she too received rainforest to commemorate her Christening. In June this year it was a pleasure to meet up for the first time with the whole family, who have been regular supporters since those early days.

Saving Life on Earth With World Land Trust

Please consider a legacy for wildlife

A legacy to the World Land Trust is a legacy for future generations, ensuring some of the last remaining strongholds of our earthly paradise will survive for our descendents. You may also like to consider a 'living legacy' by making a donation that will create an entire reserve, which you can go and visit in your lifetime.



If you would like to speak, in confidence, to John Burton (our Chief Executive) please telephone: 01986 874 422.

Book Reviews



Global Warning – the Last Chance for Change by Paul Brown. Dakini Books. RRP: £19.95

If anyone harboured lingering doubts about the reality of climate change, this book will dispel them in a series of unrelenting visual left hooks and uppercuts, coupled with some equally forthright prose which will have the reader convinced beyond a shadow of doubt before he or she has read the first 20 pages or so. It is unremitting in its message: we have ten years or so in which to change our ways before climate change becomes irreversible.

But Brown, a former Guardian environment correspondent and prolific writer on environmental issues, does not fall into the trap of using his book as a promotion for nuclear power. In fact, he is decidedly critical of nuclear technology and, if his book has a positive side, it is to urge us to set about dealing with climate change ourselves, aided, where such a possibility exists, by enlightened government (which does not include the UK, sadly, which he accuses of calling yet another energy review recently for the express purpose of overturning the earlier review which shunned nuclear in favour of renewables).

The book is half-coffee-table-sized with over 300 stunning pictures contained in as many pages. It argues that as scientific opinion about climate change is hardening, the political response is weakening. In fact, there is no discernable means – certainly in the UK – of dealing with climate change beyond setting targets, nor, for that matter, for developing an energy strategy which is coherent, transparent to the public, affordable, which meets international obligations. While the UK allows the market place to determine the price of electricity and thus to dictate whether or not the lights stay on, the

nuclear industry is bailed out by the public purse, nuclear waste accumulates, the price of dealing with it escalates (£100 billion at the last count) and the economics of the industry are of what Brown calls the ‘voodoo’ variety.

And as the scientific opinions harden, we look around for the next scapegoat: China is the latest: we have managed to divert attention from our own inactivity as well as that of the USA, by putting China in the firing line, set, as it apparently is, the BBC repeatedly tell us, to overtake the USA in the ‘biggest polluter in the world’ stakes, regardless of the differing population size, standard of living issues, socio-economic or developmental issues.

Brown’s final message is that renewable technologies can be made ‘appropriate’ to communities, can be scaled up or down to meet the needs of people. Governments are wedded to the big, high investment, large infrastructure projects which give them the sense of power politicians crave. What we want and what the world needs is human-scale electricity generation and for politicians to start tackling climate change with a sense of urgency and innovation and to stick their nuclear power stations where the sun definitely doesn’t shine.

Pete Wilkinson
Energy Consultant to World Land Trust



The Green Building Bible Green Building Press

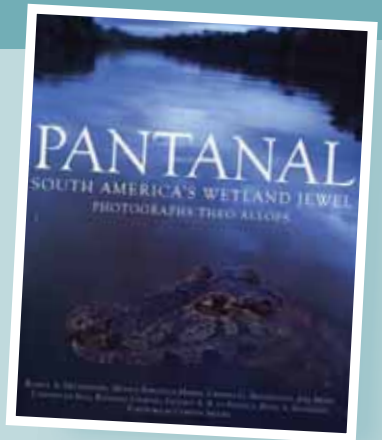
RRP: £9.98 per volume; £17 for both

Volume 1: Essential information to help you make your home and buildings less harmful to the environment, the community and your family.

Volume 2: In depth technical information and data on the strategies and the systems needed to create low energy, green buildings.

The Green Building Bible (now in its 3rd edition) - ‘all you need to know about ecobuilding’.

Win a copy of this book
See back page



Pantanal by R. A. Mittermeier et al., photographs by T. Allofs. New Holland, 2007.

RRP: £24.99

This unique book really gets under the skin of the South American transboundary Pantanal by combining fantastic photography with a very accurate and easy-to-read narrative. In its 176 pages you will find the beauty of the flora, fauna and landscapes of the Brazilian Pantanal as well as its people. This book also shows that the Pantanal is not only a huge wetland but also a mosaic of different natural communities including forests and grasslands - the first book to accurately do this. The exquisite photography gives a real insight into the habits of the wild fauna of the Pantanal, and the roles they play in the environment. A special section of the book is dedicated to the threats facing this huge wetland as well as the current conservation efforts carried out in the Brazilian area of the Pantanal.

As I read this book I am more in love and committed than ever to our activities at Guyra Paraguay to save the Paraguayan Pantanal, perhaps the last remote area of the Pantanal and in its southernmost range. This is a rare and special book and I hope that you will buy it.

Alberto Yanosky
Exec. Director, Guyra Paraguay

PS: I intend to take this book up to the Three Giants Lodge, on the Pantanal Reserve, to leave for visitors to look at alongside the view of the Pantanal from the edge of the Rio Negra.

Sir David Attenborough helps launch funding commitment by Allied Irish Bank



Sir David Attenborough, a WLT Patron, helped launch fundraising on behalf of Allied Irish Bank when he met with Donal Forde, Managing Director of Allied Irish Bank (centre) and WLT's CEO, John Burton.

AIB has pledged a minimum of €500,00 through their "Add More Green" Fund, designed to encourage their customers to opt for online statements using the bank's new eStatement service. AIB will donate €5 for everyone who converts and the funds will be split equally between

World Land Trust and Coillte, a forestry company which manages 445,000 ha of Ireland's State owned forests.

Launching the programme, Sir David Attenborough said: *"The World Land Trust gives absolutely everyone an opportunity to get involved and take personal responsibility for protecting the future of our environment in a really positive way. I welcome AIB's decision to encourage customers to be more environmentally conscious and we are pleased to have them as new supporters of the Trust."*

900 mile Cycle Ride to raise awareness of Climate Change and funds for WLT projects

Three young people, Jonathan Smith, Alice Holden and Kate Aldridge, will shortly be embarking on an epic journey (some 900 miles) cycling the length of Britain, from Land's End to John O'Groats. Their aim is to draw attention to climate change, and raise funds at the same time.

By eating local organic food, wearing

organic clothing and using muscle power rather than fossil fuels they hope to provide inspirational solutions to reducing their individual and collective ecological footprints. You can sponsor them, (or simply watch their progress) on their website:

www.powertopedal.org.uk

Cover Picture

The cover illustrates four of the habitats and their wildlife which WLT is actively saving. These cards, painted by Robert Logan, are available from World Land Trust as notelets or with Christmas greetings. See insert for Order Form or website: www.worldlandtrust.org

WLT Competition



First prize: Pantanal by Theo Allofs

Choose the correct letter from each of the 7 questions below to identify the endangered species.

1. My first is in Mexico but not in Brazil
2. My second is in Paraguay and also in Ecuador
3. My third is in Argentina but not in Belize
4. My fourth is in the Philippines more than once
5. My fifth is not in a project country it is in a question
6. My sixth is in Venezuela but not in Costa Rica
7. My seventh is in Patagonia and also in Misiones

My whole is an endangered species found in Brazil

Send your answer with your name and address to:

**WLT Competition, Blyth House,
Bridge Street, Halesworth,
Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK.**

Thank you to New Holland Publishers for donating the prize.

Entries to be received by 10 February 2008

The winner of the print in the Spring issue of WLT News was Gemma Welham of Norwich who chose an Ocelot print. Thank you to Nature Picture Library for donating the print. The answers were: False, True, False, True, True.

LAST WORD - an apology to the Keel-billed Toucan!



"Dear WLT, Thanks for the recent newsletter (WLT Spring 2007) - informative and exuberant as ever. Lovely photo of the Jabiru Stork on Page 6, but it is NOT the national bird of Belize. That position is held by the Keel-billed Toucan. I double-checked this with a friend in Belize last night, in case there had been a coup I was unaware of. There hasn't."

Hilary Hunt,
Rochester, Kent

Many apologies for the error, you are of course correct. The Jabiru's claim to fame is that it is the largest flying bird in the Western Hemisphere.

Photo credits: Page 3: WLT; Page 4: (all) WLT; Page 5 (top right) WLT, (2 below) Lee Dingain; Page 6: composite as credited, (top left) Fundacion Jocotoco, (top right) Franco Mendoza, (bottom left) Ivan Samuels, (bottom right) camera trap; Page 7: (top 2) Febero Perico, (bottom), Eduardo Valenzuela; Page 8 (both) Guyra Paraguay; Page 9 (left) Stacey Manley & Gareth West, (top centre) Edwina Kinsella-Bevan, (other 3) Wildlife Trust of India; Page 10: (all) WLT; Back page, WLT.