



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

news

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editorial

by Simon Barnes



Above: Simon Barnes and his wife, Cindy, chat with Sir David Attenborough at a WLT event held in June, when the Dry Chaco agreement was signed.

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Paraguayans have a traditional joke. We have a spare country, they say, in case we ever need it. That's more or less the literal truth: 96 per cent of the people live in the right hand side of the country. On the left, the far side of the Paraguay River, there is hardly anyone. There is hardly anything. It's rather seriously wild.

And so the World Land Trust and its partners, Guyra Paraguay, have more or less been given a spare country to look after. It is one of the most amazing things that has happened, not only in the history of WLT, but in the history of conservation.

I went there this year. I went into the area called the Dry Chaco: perhaps the most forbidding bit of country on earth. Wild? There are still uncontacted tribes out there, about a thousand people in all, and they have made it quite clear that they want to stay uncontacted. In the vast spaces of the Chaco, that is perfectly feasible.

Lord, it's a fearsome place. The vegetation is not just an obstacle to progress: it seems to possess an active malevolence. Everywhere you can grow a thorn, you find a thorn. The landscape is made still more bizarre by the enormous pot-bellied trees, the Palo Borracho or 'drunken stick'. There is no easy walking, for there are no vast herds of large mammals to make the game-trails you find in Africa. Everything in the Dry Chaco carries a keep-off message for humans.

You can still find the scars of the Chaco War of the Thirties: Paraguayan earthworks, Bolivian tank-tracks. This was hellish fighting country. Pretty hellish country for just about anything. An animal the size of a miniature pony was discovered there as recently as 1975, the Chaco Peccary, a kind of pig that rootles about in this impenetrable place.

Sir David Attenborough was there for a Zoo Quest series 50 years ago, looking for armadillos, travelling by horse, with an ox-wagon for supplies. The Chaco has scarcely changed. There are Jaguar and Puma here, tapir, Giant Anteater, three species of peccary, and a great adaptive radiation of armadillos.

To walk here is to feel the most extraordinary sense of privilege. It is perhaps the wildest place on earth. It's wildness has, up to now, been its safeguard. But in ever more land-hungry times, something else is required: and it has been done.

Paraguay is a country that has known hard times. It has spent years under dictatorship of a peculiarly brutal kind. The country is even now emerging blinking into the daylight of democracy. Freedoms we take for granted are treated in Paraguay as priceless gifts.

And so I found myself in Asuncion, hobnobbing with ministers. Paraguay is a matey, informal place: I found myself exchanging hugs with a male minister and kisses with a female minister. That's the kind of place it is. There is a relaxed but real sense of change here: a need to grow beyond the bad past.

Guyra Paraguay have set up three projects with the support of WLT: that's to say, with your money. Guyra is a feisty, well-run organisation, capable of punching well above its weight, and it has won huge respect in Paraguay. And so a remarkable three-way agreement has been signed between WLT, Guyra and the government of Paraguay. For the next ten years, a million acres of Dry Chaco – an area the size of Yorkshire – will be managed by Guyra with WLT's support. It is a miracle of commonsense, a breathtaking responsibility and a glorious opportunity. The Chaco giant peccary can carry on rootling.

Simon Barnes is an award winning journalist who writes on both wildlife and sport. His **Wild Notebook** columns in **The Times** every Saturday have raised thousands of pounds for land purchase through donations to the World Land Trust. Simon has also assigned all the Public Lending Rights in his books to WLT's Green Ink project. Earlier this year he visited Paraguay with John Burton - see report opposite.

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Travels in Paraguay, and a chance to save One Million Hectares, by John Burton



As WLT is coming up to its 20th Anniversary, it was decided that I was entitled to a 5-week sabbatical, and I chose to spend it in Paraguay. I am not sure how a sabbatical is defined, but, as far as I was concerned, it was a combination of distance working, and doing a few of the things I had always wanted to do, related to work, but never had time or chance to do before.

In particular I was able to travel into the forest with a group of Ayoreo Indians, and camp in one of the more remote parts of the Gran Chaco with them. The Indians I travelled with, like thousands of others, had lived in the forests of the Chaco, largely uncontacted by the rest of the world, until the middle of the last century. From the 1930s onwards, small colonies of Mennonites settled in the Chaco, but otherwise it was a vast, unexplored region, only inhabited by the Ayoreo, Chamacoco, Lengua, and a few other indigenous groups. But then, from the 1950s onwards, increasing numbers of missionaries began to seek out these uncontacted groups and evangelise them. To me, the effect of the missionaries on these people is too depressing to recount but for anyone interested an internet search on "New Tribes Mission" and "cultural genocide" will bring up some pretty bleak reports. I visited some of the camps created by the missionaries, in particular Campo Loro: the handicrafts made by the women are spectacular - particularly the weavings made from fibres extracted from bromeliads, which are then spun, dyed and woven into fine bags.

The Dry Chaco - Inhospitable but a Wildlife Haven

As Simon says in his Editorial, the Dry Chaco is a pretty inhospitable environment, and driving in it is quite an adventure. As I was on my own quite a bit of the time I followed the advice that it wasn't a good idea to go too far off the beaten track as it is very easy to end up two days walk from the nearest help, if the truck breaks down. And it is quite common for the road that links Paraguay to Bolivia to disintegrate into pure sand.

I love Paraguay, and the Dry Chaco in particular, mainly because it is alive with wildlife; and I saw plenty of it. Plenty of armadillos, as well as deer and rheas, and several of the 14 species of woodpecker found in Paraguay. The tracks of tapir and



Above: An Ayoreo lady making fibre for weaving out of bromeliad leaves.

Below: The Dry Chaco provides a safe environment for Jaguar, with a good supply of prey species.



Jaguar are common enough, and I did get a really good view of a tapir at dusk one evening. Though the Jaguars still elude me.

Years of the Dictatorship drained Paraguay, but the country is back on the road to prosperity. However, as might be expected, the national parks and other protected areas are not particularly high on the agenda. Which is why the relationship between Guyra Paraguay and the World Land Trust is so important.

Right: When visiting Paraguay researching his articles for *The Times* in June, Simon Barnes was able to do what he enjoys most: watch birds. Here he is on the banks of the Rio Negro, at the Three Giants Lodge, funded with WLT support, in the heart of the Chaco-Pantanal Reserve.



Sunset on the Chaco/Pantanal Reserve

Agreement between Guyra Paraguay, WLT and the Government of Paraguay

The three-way Agreement signed by the out-going Minister of the Environment with WLT and Guyra Paraguay earlier this year, was warmly welcomed by the new Minister, Jose-Luis Cassaccia, who took over on 15th August as part of the new Government of President Lugo. I had several meetings with Sr. Cassaccia and he is clearly determined to do everything in his power to improve protection for the environment. But resources are limited. This is why WLT and Guyra Paraguay believe it is so important to move forward NOW.

The Agreement relates to the conservation management of three national parks, and covers over 1-million hectares (nearly 2.5 million acres). That's nearly four times the area managed by the National Trust in England, and more than the RSPB, National Trust and all the county Wildlife Trusts put together. In terms of biodiversity conservation, it is incredibly important. But it all costs money.

We need to raise at least £100,000 a year for the next couple of years, while we establish a long-term funding plan. PriceWaterhouseCoopers are providing *pro bono* support with the financial planning, and there is potential for using the ecological services the reserve provides as a future source of fundraising. But in the short-term we must raise funds to employ park guards and wardens to put the protection in place. Please make a donation if you can: regular supporters know that with WLT you can be assured that we will use your donations wisely. Thank you.

Ecuador Update

- more habitats protected and species new to science



A New Cat Species for Fundación Jocotoco?

The photograph of the wild cat on the right was taken by Aldo Sornoza, who was helping with the construction of the new visitors' lodge on the Jorupe Reserve. It is thought to be a new species of cat, still to be described, which was first seen two years ago in Peru. The Jorupe Reserve is close to the border with Peru and this would be the first known sighting in Ecuador.

The only other cat that it might be confused with is the Andean Cat, one of the rarest of all the cat species, about which very little is known. Over the last 25 years there have been fewer than 10 documented sightings.



Above: A new species of cat? Photographed on FJ's Jorupe Reserve.

Recent Land Purchases

A 240 acre (100 ha) area of forest is being purchased at Rio Canandé, to add to the 1,080 acres (450 ha) bought recently, with funds provided by WLT and WLT-US. This reserve in northern Ecuador is one of the wettest places on earth, and has an extraordinarily rich flora and fauna. 363 species of birds have been recorded, including the Great Green Macaw; it is also a stronghold for Jaguar, Howler and Spider Monkeys.

WLT is also funding the purchase of 200 acres (80 ha) at Yanacocha, for reforestation. This reserve protects a type of high altitude *Polylepsis* forest, little of which survives, mainly as a result of clearance for agriculture and charcoal. The main population of critically endangered Black-breasted Puffleg (a type of hummingbird) is on, or close to, the reserve. Other land purchase negotiations are underway taking place at Buenaventura, Narupa, Tapichalaca, and Yanacocha.

Good News for birds

The nest box programme for endangered parrots is giving promising results. At Buenaventura, the El Oro Parakeet flock produced 30 young birds: 10 from natural nests and 20 from boxes. At Tapichalaca the nest boxes installed for the White-breasted Parakeets are already being used, but no eggs have yet appeared.

Research on the endangered Esmeraldas Woodstar (hummingbird) continues, with a view to establishing a new reserve for this bird, on the NW coast. At Narupa, on the Amazon slope of the Andes, there have been recent good sightings of a lek of Amazonian Umbrellabirds, two pairs of Military Macaws, a pair of Orange-breasted Falcons, and a Sharpbill (a very rare bird in Ecuador).

Important frog discoveries, News from Lou Jost, of Fundación EcoMinga



Herpetologists from the Ecuadorian Museum of Natural Sciences have been surveying Fundación EcoMinga's reserves over recent months, and have discovered three apparently new species of frogs in and around the reserves. They estimate that the total number of frog species in the Cerro Candelaria reserve (EcoMinga's largest reserve, bought through donations

to WLT), is around 40. This is good news in a world where most news about frogs is very depressing.

They were also thrilled to find a surviving population of a Harlequin Frog (*Atelopus palmatus*) that was thought to be extinct, near EcoMinga's Rio Zuñac reserve.



Above: Three of the new species of frog recently recorded on Fundación EcoMinga reserves.

Left: *Hyla Tapichalaca* was discovered on Fundación Jocotoco's Tapichalaca reserve 8 years ago, and is rarely seen. The photograph is of a male and was taken recently by a park ranger at the stream close to where it was originally found.

Latest Camera Trap images of rare mammals on FJ reserves



Left: The first camera trap image of a Woolly Mountain Tapir from Tapichalaca Reserve. Right: This Ocelot was captured on film on the Rio Canandé Reserve.

New WLT Appeal Urgently saving land for Orang-utans



In response to the desperate plight of the Orang-utan in SE Asia, WLT has joined forces with Bornean Partner Organisation, LEAP Conservancy in a bid to save sustainable habitats for Orang-utans. Although there are many organisations rescuing and rehabilitating Orang-utans little is being done to secure long term protection of the forests which are needed if they are going to survive in the decades to come. 60% of the Orang-utan population occurs outside protected areas and with the catastrophic spread of oil palm plantations WLT believes there is no time to waste in purchasing remaining corridors of forest.

WLT is concentrating its efforts on the Lower Kinabatangan Floodplains of Sabah, with the aim of reconnecting the diverse ecosystems of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. 10% of Sabah's Orang-utans survive here and forests are being relentlessly cleared, and turned into oil palm plantations.

By purchasing pockets of land between existing sanctuaries there is a real opportunity to save sustainable areas for Orang-utans to live safely and breed. The forest corridor will also help protect other endangered species including Bornean Pygmy Elephant, Malayan Sun Bear, Clouded Leopard, Proboscis Monkey and 9 other species of primates as well as birds including Storm's Stork and eight hornbill species.



Top left: The Clouded Leopard's survival, as the top carnivore of the SE Asian tropical forests, is at risk through loss of habitat.

Top right: A young Orang-utan.

Left: An aerial photograph of the Kinabatangan Floodplains illustrates the catastrophic loss of tropical forests.



Question:
Can WLT buy land for £50 an acre in Borneo?

Answer:
Unfortunately, no.

The forests that WLT has pledged to buy costs much, much more than £50 an acre since the land is in huge demand for oil palm plantations which yield large profits. Even so, we feel sure that our supporters will agree that WLT should become actively involved in this ecological catastrophe, and will give generously to help us save forests for Orang-utans while there is still time. We produce special WLT Certificates to record your support, for yourself or your gift recipient, if you wish.

Recent surveys record 604 Orang-utans surviving in the WLT-funded project area - equivalent to £568.48 an Orang-utan and its forest home.

The WLT-funded Reserve Area

The Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary is a 65,000 acre (27,000 ha) reserve located in Sabah. But it is split up into several isolated blocks which means that there are no continuous protected forests. The Sanctuary, in the lower catchment of the Kinabatangan River, consists of seven distinct ecosystems ranging from lowland tropical forest to seasonally flooding riparian forests and mangrove. This unique combination of ecosystems provides food all year round, making it prime habitat for wildlife.

WLT's local partners, LEAP Conservancy, have identified key private lands within the sanctuary in need of immediate purchase, and are urgently raising funds for the first of a series of small, but strategically important land purchases. In addition, a separate larger land purchase is already going ahead, to the east of the Kinabatangan Floodplain, to link together another two important protected areas in Sabah.



**How do I avoid buying products which use Palm Oil?
See Dear WLT, page 11**

WLT and its Overseas PROJECT PARTNERS meet in Belize

How our Partnerships work

The WLT Partnership, is what it says - a two way *partnership*. WLT is not simply a grant-giving body (though our funds for land purchase are our most important contribution). We aim to form real partnerships that help create sustainable organisations for long term conservation. The key to WLT's philosophy is to empower partners with financial and technical assistance but not to manage them. With this in mind, before we start a new project we first identify a suitable NGO with whom to work, and only if one does not already exist is a new local organisation formed.

When WLT signs a Memorandum of Understanding with an overseas project partner to work together to secure land, the intention is that the reserves will be protected in perpetuity. WLT, through its supporters, funds the land purchase and the ownership is vested with the local partners, consequently with each new reserve comes the associated challenge of how best to ensure its permanent protection.

Now that WLT has helped fund the purchase of almost 400,000 acres worldwide this puts a tremendous strain on our project partners who are responsible not only for reserve protection but also the associated costs. Ways of raising a sustainable income stream was one of the key issues that was discussed at a groundbreaking symposium held in the Netherlands in September 2006, organised jointly by IUCN National Committee for the Netherlands and WLT.

The title of the first symposium was "Land Purchase as an Intervention Strategy for Nature Conservation". Key decision makers from WLT's overseas NGO partners, and those of IUCN-NL attended, and it proved a unique and stimulating forum for discussion. Partner representatives were all agreed that such meetings should be held every 18-months, and the second symposium took place in

Symposium in PFB forest.

The 2nd symposium brought together the leaders of WLT's and IUCN-Netherlands Project Partners to discuss "Financial Sustainability of Private Protected Areas" and was attended by 17 participants. It was held at the La Milpa Field Station at the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area in Belize, in the forest that WLT was set up to help purchase and save nearly twenty years ago.

"I am normally very cynical about conferences, and gave up going to most of them years ago, but this symposium demonstrated that if the right people get together, really significant results can be achieved."

John Burton,
CEO, World Land Trust

The participants at the Second Partner Symposium

Front (kneeling): Constantino Aucua (Ecoan, Peru)

Front row (l-r): John Burton (WLT), Alberto Yanosky (Guyra Paraguay), Maria Lourdes Nunes (Fundação O Boticário, Brazil), Victoria Maldonado (Fundación Palma, Chile), Francisco Sornoza (Fundación Jocotoco, Ecuador)

2nd row (l-r): Edilberto Romero (Programme for Belize), Kirsty Burgess and Jo Finch (WLT), Roberto Pedraza (Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda, Mexico), Nicholas Locke (REGUA, Brazil)

3rd/4th row (l-r): Eric von Horstman (Fundación Pro-bosque, Ecuador), Mario Malajovich (Fundación Frontera Verde, Argentina), Marc Hoogeslag and Aukje de Boer (IUCN Netherlands), Mark Guin (WLT), Benno Glauser (Iniciativa Amotocodie, Paraguay)

5th/6th row (l-r): Vivek Menon (Wildlife Trust of India), Marco Cerezo (Fundaeo, Guatemala), Luis Castelli (Fundación Patagonia Natural, Argentina), Gerardo Ledesma (Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation), Franklin Rojas (Provita, Venezuela), Lou Jost (Fundación EcoMinga, Ecuador), Roger Wilson (WLT), Daan Wensing (IUCN Netherlands).

May 2008. Delegates at the four-day symposium discussed topics specifically addressing the creation of sustainable income streams for conservation, including **Payment for Ecological Services, Carbon Sequestration, Tourism, and Endowment Funds.**

The wealth of experience and expertise represented by the 17 participants enabled in-depth discussion, and all were able to benefit from experiences in different project areas, on the potential opportunities and pit-falls of these activities. Each participant returned home with information and inspiration on how to develop their conservation activities and fulfil their pledges to protecting the reserves in their own countries.

Why IUCN-Netherlands?

The International Union for Conservation of Nature is the coordinating body for conservation, and there are regional and national committees all over the world. But the Netherlands Committee is by far the most proactive, and amongst its activities it has a grant giving facility specifically for land purchase. The WLT has been working with IUCN-NL for three years, and this year signed an MoU to cooperate over land purchase projects with project partners.



Comments received from Project Partners

"This Symposium is surely one of the most enriching I've ever been to... It is clear that we cannot do all the work, but we must remain united." Francisco Sornoza, Fundación Jocotoco, Ecuador.

"I know we are as tiny dots on our planet, but it so inspiring to find nice people doing their best to protect their own biodiversity, so after it I know again we are doing the right thing and will never do enough, so keep spirits high and work hard!" Roberto Pedraza, GESG, Mexico

"I am very grateful for this Symposium and for the honest contributions that have been expressed." Alberto Yanosky, Guyra Paraguay.

"This is not a meeting to simply make contacts and network but is a chance to share experiences within the family" Vivek Menon, Wildlife Trusts of India.

"We all seem to have made excellent progress since the last meeting and it has been very, very inspiring. Thank you all for recharging the eco-batteries." Nicholas Locke, REGUA, Brazil.



World Land Trust was born in Belize

Since then 260,000 acres have been saved from the chainsaw

When Jerry Bertrand, WLT's Honorary President, contacted John Burton at the end of 1988 to ask him if he thought he could raise funds in the UK to help save 110,000 acres of tropical forest in Belize, John's immediate response was YES.

Twenty years ago not many people even knew where Belize was; it had only changed its name from British Honduras in 1981. And the concept of '£25 saves an Acre' was completely new. Since those early days WLT has gone from strength to strength.

But back to our roots in Belize. The original 110,000 acres was saved, more land was given to PFB and further land was purchased, resulting in a total of 260,000 acres of forest in northwestern Belize being protected.

The Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA) now represents approximately 4% of Belize's total land area and is home to a wealth of wildlife which includes 400 species of birds, 200 species of trees, 70 species of mammals and 12 endangered animal species. On the RBCMA, PFB carries out research, education, professional training

and promotes environmental awareness amongst visitors.

Approximately half of the RBCMA is managed as a strict nature reserve for the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats. In buffer zones around the core nature reserve (not funded through donations) PFB is developing viable economic land uses that do not damage the forest or its biodiversity. These projects include sensitive nature tourism and selected forestry. PFB has established two field stations: the La Milpa Field Station (where the Symposium was held (see page 6), which is a small visitor lodge consisting of separate cabanas on the edge of the forest, and the Hill Bank Field Station which is open to limited numbers of visitors and researchers.

PFB is committed to developing sustainable income streams from its economic activities to support the conservation of the RBCMA. Significant progress has been made over the past five years, and already 60% of PFB's operating costs are covered by nature tourism at the field stations. PFB is working to increase its level of self-sustainability for the future.



British Birdwatching Fair, August 2008

Above: (l-r) Jonelle Hemmans and Vladimir Rodrigues from Programme for Belize joined WLT on its stand at this year's BirdFair held at Rutland Water in August. They were there to promote sensitive tourism to PFB's field stations, and were joined by other representatives of WLT's overseas project partners: Lee Dingain and Rachel Walls representing REGUA (centre and centre right) and Hugo del Castillo from Guyra Paraguay (far right).

Others in the photograph are WLT staff: Back row (l-r) Mark Gruin, (Special Projects Consultant), Kelly Jacobs (Education, Training and Outreach Officer) and Lorienne Parker (Projects Development Intern).

WLT's 3rd Project, born in 1994: Saved Danjungan Island Update from Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation



Above: Danjungan Island, with its pristine forests, inland lagoons and fringing coral reefs, protects an important range of endemic and migratory species, including the White-breasted Sea Eagle.

It was saved from destructive development through donations to World Land Trust, and is now protected as a nature reserve by the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, based in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

It was a simple concept: Save a Tree for an Eagle

Gerry Ledesma, a Philippine environmentalist, wanted to save a tree where an eagle had built its nest, but ended up doing so much more. With the help of WLT, and the formation of the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, the entire island where the tree stands is now a wildlife sanctuary.

£150,000 was the price tag for this, one of the few islands in the Visayan Island Group, to still have most of its original forest cover. The island had suffered from varying degrees of abuse over the years due to failed business ventures, which included a kiln to produce lime and rock phosphate and prawn aquaculture in two of its five lagoons, but worse was on the cards: it was about to be purchased to be turned into a resort development.

William Oliver, a British conservationist, alerted us to the problem and introduced

us to Gerry Ledesma. This, in turn, led to the establishment of a new Foundation and a working relationship being agreed between WLT and the Foundation. A bridging loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines enabled the purchase of the island and, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, this was subsequently paid off in full.

Danjungan protects seven habitat types: limestone, beach, mangrove forests, caves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and open sea that is the migration path of some species of whales; it is also an important stopping off place for migratory birds in the southern hemisphere. WLT is also funding mangrove restoration on the adjacent island of Negros.

It is worth noting that 13 years ago, when WLT first made a commitment to fund the purchase and protection of Danjungan Island, the cost was £150,000. Its cost today has been estimated at well over £1-million but, of course, it is now protected in perpetuity.

Saving the Atlantic Rainforest

Just 80 km northeast of Rio de Janeiro

Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu



The red arrow indicates the location of the REGUA Reserve

The Guapi Assu Reserve, owned and protected by WLT Partners, Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu (REGUA), is one of the most important regions in the world for biodiversity and for endangered species of birds.

The Reserve spans 200 m to 2,000 m above sea level and provides a unique range of habitats which include highland rainforest and lowland wetlands. It also provides a vital corridor of protected land in the Tres Picos National Park, for wide-ranging species to move safely between protected habitats.

More GOOD NEWS about the Wildlife at REGUA

from Nicholas Locke, REGUA Project Director

From initial reintroductions of **Red-billed Curassows**, two couples have formed and one couple have both matured, so there is a good chance that they will breed this season. We plan to release a further 20 into the forests over the next few months.

Black-fronted Piping Guan have been reintroduced also. Although they do not have transmitters, and were expected to disappear once released, they have been seen in the low forested areas of the reserve. Another 20 birds are due to be released.

Research is currently taking place to establish whether the **Maned Sloth** (*Bradypus torquatus*) is still present in the southern part of the Atlantic Rainforest, or whether it is extinct in the region. This sloth species is extinct through much of its former range and only occurs in small areas of the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest, and increasingly threatened by continuing deforestation. We are very much hoping that the REGUA forests will help its survival. Meanwhile **Three-toed Sloths** are reasonably common on the reserve.

One of the most exciting events this year was the first recording of a **Puma** within the reserve boundaries. Since the first camera trap photo there have been regular signs of Puma presence.

Purchasing the Matumbo Gap - we are almost there

The priority for REGUA over recent months has been to purchase a number of strategically placed parcels of land to link together existing REGUA reserve forests. Referred to as 'The Matumbo Gap', 17 properties were identified within the 'Gap' after mapping and clearing their boundaries, of which 12 were available for purchase.

In the Spring issue of WLT News we reported that 4 of these properties had been purchased. We are pleased to report that, 11 of the 12 properties have now been purchased through funds provided by WLT and IUCN-Netherlands, with matched funding from American Bird Conservancy.



This photograph illustrates the properties forming the Matumbo Gap. 11 have now been purchased leaving just one property still to be purchased.

REGUA is now looking at a property bordering the Matumbo Gap which, in Nicholas Locke's words, is: "... a fabulous property of 700 ha reaching the high ridge line. It is in need of full protection as its forests are wonderful - in pristine condition."

WLT Education Officer, Kelly Jacobs, visits REGUA

"Red-billed curassows doing the Twist & Shout; steel oil drums painted blue, red and yellow and marked for recycling paper, metal and plastic; school lunch at 9.30 am ... my recent visit to Brazil was full of surprises!", said Kelly Jacobs on her return from Brazil.

Kelly's first field trip to Brazil in June was for two reasons: firstly to look at the forests which have been identified for the BIAZA Reserve, which she is co-ordinating (see below), and also to look at what REGUA is doing as part of its Education and Outreach Programme to see how she might promote and help it through her own work with WLT in the UK.

"Nicholas and Raquel Locke, who run

Right: Kelly Jacobs, WLT Education & Outreach Officer (centre), visits Brazil and is photographed here with Nicholas and Raquel Locke.



REGUA, work tirelessly to protect and restore their fragile and threatened Atlantic Rainforest reserve", she says. "After just one day with Nicholas, walking in the forest which WLT is helping to purchase, I felt totally inspired."



Above: The Puma is now known to occur on the REGUA reserve

The BIAZA Reserve

The British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA) is aiming to raise £266,000, over a three-year period, to fund the purchase and creation of a named reserve at REGUA. Fundraising runs to the end of December 2009, and during 2007 £51,000 was raised.

Once the target has been reached the new land purchase will extend the reach of the REGUA reserve towards the Rio de Janeiro Primatology Centre. This continuous belt of protected rainforest will enable the safe movement of wildlife including the Woolly Spider Monkey, one of the world's most endangered primates.



India - Progress on the Elephant Corridor in Kerala

Tigers are protected by Elephant Corridors also



Elephant Corridor in Kerala

The second Elephant Corridor being funded by WLT is in Kerala State in Southern India. This is one of 88 corridors identified by the Wildlife Trust of India as traditional routes for elephants to move between forest areas.

The corridor, in Wayanad District, of which four-fifths has now been purchased, connects the Tirunelli and Kudrakote Reserve Forests and provides a safe passage for elephants and other wildlife between the two sanctuaries. The region is home to India's largest elephant population.

Ensuring the survival of 'flagship' species, requires the protection of the whole habitat, which means that Elephant Corridors are also safeguarding a wealth of irreplaceable biodiversity at the same time. In the Rewak-Siju corridor (first corridor funded by WLT) tigers, Clouded Leopard, Jungle Cat, Barking Deer and many monkeys are known to occur. In Kerala, the Kabala River, which runs close to the corridor, is an important source of water for wildlife, and the moist, deciduous forests provide refuge for tigers as well as many of the rare species confined to the Western Ghats.

WLT funding for Coral Reef Recovery Project - Gujarat, India

The coral reefs found within the Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park, located off the western coast of India, were in a healthy state until the early 1980s, when industrial development intensified along its southern coast. Dredging of the coral reef for sand, industrial run off, and deforestation leading to increased siltation, resulted in a massive decline in coral diversity.

In an innovative bid to address this marine emergency, Wildlife Trust of India has requested WLT assistance in funding a feasibility study to determine the possibility of transplanting previously existing coral species. Funds have been provided and the research will be carried out in tandem with extensive reforestation programmes to restore the biodiversity of the Gulf of Kutch.

The seven month study is being carried out by the Wildlife Trust of India using techniques developed by the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa.

Fences and corrals now removed on the 'Ranch of Hopes' in Patagonia



Protecting 15,000 acres of the Coastal Steppe, the Estancia la Esperanza (**Ranch of Hopes**), is close to the Valdes Peninsula which is considered to be one of the most valuable wildlife areas in the world. Until recently none of the coastal steppe was protected but the Ranch of Hopes has been decreed an official Wildlife Refuge by the State Government of Chubut, in Argentina. This is a real credit to our local partners, Fundacion Patagonia Natural, who have worked tirelessly to protect, survey and rehabilitate wildlife and the habitat.

In the Spring issue of WLT News we made an urgent appeal for funds to remove the fences and corrals on the Ranch of Hopes, left behind when it was a sheep ranch. We are pleased to report that the funds were raised and the fences and corrals which were proving to be a deadly hazard for wildlife, have now been removed. Thank you for your help.

Above Right: Guanaco numbers have increased from around 50 individuals seven years ago, to over 700. But young Guanacos were getting caught in fencing and injured or killed as a result.

Below Right: Recording removal of fences.



Photo credits: Cover: Andy Rouse; Page 2: Charles Robinson/WLT; Page 3: (top two) WLT, (below) David Bebbler/The Times; Page 4: (top) Aldo Somoza/FJ; (3 frogs) Juan Pablo Reyes, (Hyla Tapichalaca & camera trap) Fundacion Jocotoco; Page 5: (top left) free image; (the rest) Kirsty Burgess/WLT; Pages 6 & 7: WLT; Page 8: (top) REGUA, (centre) WLT, (below) Kevin Schafer; Page 9: (top) Maria Allen, (two below) WLT; Page 10: (top) Paul Salaman/WLT-US, (below) Andrew Smiley/WLT; Back page: (top) Nigel Simpson/WLT, (the rest) Charles Robinson/WLT.

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.

WLT-US

Saving more land for Spectacled Bears, Giant Anteaters, Ornate Titi-monkeys to name just a few



Support through WLT-US continues to strengthen the protection of critically threatened habitats. Over recent months WLT-US has been able to assist in the spectacular Cosanga valley in Ecuador, to fund the purchase of five properties acquired by Napo Andean Forest Foundation, a WLT-US project partner. This protection creates a vital buffer zone for the 296,400 acre Antisana Protected Area, which includes the dramatic Antisana Volcano and beautiful cloud forests on the eastern slopes of the Andes. Also in Ecuador, donations enabled us to support Fundación EcoMinga with an additional acquisition for their Zunac reserve – a global hotspot of orchid diversity and endemism located in central Ecuador.

In Colombia WLT-US is helping Fundación ProAves to expand two protected areas in the Chocó and Eastern Andes regions as well as a new reserve protecting an important watershed on the eastern foothills of the Andes, beside the city of Villavicencio, and the Llanos grasslands of north-eastern Colombia. This new reserve, called the Orange-breasted Falcon Nature

Reserve, protects 240 species of bird and two endangered mammals, the Giant Anteater and endemic and little-known Ornate Titi-monkey, as well as the falcon.

A priority for WLT-US is protecting the majestic rainforests of the Magdalena valley in central Colombia. Encircled by the Andes, this unique tropical enclave supports one of the richest assemblages of biodiversity on the planet including tapirs, Jaguars and Spectacled Bears, plus a plethora of endemic flora and fauna.

Tragically, over 98% of this once lush carpet of rainforest has been destroyed for timber and ranching. With just one last stand of pristine habitat remaining that represents the last opportunity to save its unique wildlife, which include enigmatic species such as the Critically Endangered Blue-billed Curassow (locally called "Paujil") and the Magdalena Spider Monkey one of the rarest primates on earth, all at imminent threat of extinction. WLT-US has been working with Fundación ProAves to urgently acquire and protect this last stand of forest from loggers.

ProAves started to buy land in 2003 and has already saved over 1,250 hectares to establish the "El Paujil Nature Reserve" with forest guards, a threatened species research program and local community involvement in sustainable development and outreach activities.



Above: Spectacled Bear still survive in the Magdalena valley in central Colombia but with less than 2% of the original rainforest surviving it is vital that the last remnants are saved for their wildlife.

www.worldlandtrust-us.org

For address details see inside cover

Supporters in the USA can make tax efficient donations through WLT-US:

www.worldlandtrust-us.org/supporting/index

WLT's Restoration Ecology Programme

The value of the WLT restoration ecology work is that it operates right on the deforestation frontier, either saving critical habitat for threatened species under imminent threat of destruction or restoring that habitat where the forest has already gone. This work is supported by the Carbon Balanced programme, where the carbon locked up in the wood offsets CO2 emissions from individuals and small to medium enterprises. WLT also runs a big reforestation project using native species, supported for several years now by Scottish and Southern Energy.

A lot has been happening this year with major activity at six sites in Ecuador, at REGUA in Brazil, in San Rafael in Paraguay and at Sierra Gorda in Mexico. WLT and its partners have planted over 300,000 native trees, not to mention the forest that has been saved and the land now going back to woodland through

natural regeneration. Some 120,000 trees have been planted at the Buenaventura reserve alone, reforesting open pasture and creating a corridor between two areas important for the endangered El Oro parakeet.



The Yanacocha restoration project started three years ago when Bird Holidays came to WLT wanting to both offset the emissions from its birding trips to Ecuador and to help protect the habitat of the Black-breasted Puffleg, a threatened hummingbird of the high Ecuadorian Andes. Yanacocha is one of its key sites and a conservation priority for WLT partner Fundación Jocotoco.



Above: Tapichalaca, high in the upper watershed of the Amazon, is another priority area for restoration ecology work. Here, clients of Travel Republic have offset the emissions from their holidays, with the help of WLT, by securing a 100 acre (40 ha) extension to the Tapichalaca reserve. The biodiversity of this area is truly extraordinary with a host of threatened and newly-discovered species. It also supplies the water for the nearby town of Valladolid.



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: www.carbonbalanced.org

Or telephone WLT office: 01986 874 422

Dear WLT: "How do I avoid products using palm oil", "Do companies simply support conservation to get on the Green Bandwagon" and "Which wildlife books would make good gifts?" John Burton, WLT Chief Executive replies

How do I avoid buying products using palm oil?

I get very upset reading in the Press about forests being chopped down for palm oil, and wildlife being killed. Is it as bad as I fear? And, if so, how can I, as an individual, make sure that I'm not buying products which use palm oil, as I've looked at ingredients in foods and never see it mentioned.

Julia Brayburn, Chichester

In my view, the threat to wildlife from the onslaught of oil palm and other plantation agriculture, is second to none. Once planted, oil palm takes several years to crop and during this time there are other threats to wildlife from the intensive use of pesticides and herbicides. So, yes, we should definitely be avoiding products

which use palm oil.

But that is easier said than done. Friends of the Earth estimate that it is present in 1 in 10 supermarket products: anything from ice-cream, pet food, toothpaste and soap powders could contain it. And how would you know? Well, it is virtually impossible to detect. But if the ingredients list 'saturated fat' or 'vegetable oil' in the contents, then the chances are that at least some of that oil will be palm oil. If you are in doubt about a favourite product I suggest you write to the manufacturer for clarification - in this instance public pressure really could bring about change. And there are an increasing number of products coming onto the market now which clearly state that they **Do Not** use palm oil, so that, at least is progress.

Can you suggest any really good wildlife book?

I've got quite a few birthdays coming up, not to mention Christmas, and, mainly because I am tired of buying meaningless presents, I have decided that in future I will buy books. Apart from the usual field guides to birds and trees etc. are there any books about wildlife that you would recommend as I don't know where to start?

Mary Pointer, Chelmsford

Ever since the WLT was founded, the Natural History Book Service has supported us in a variety of ways. For the past few years they have donated hundreds of books on wildlife to our partners. NHBS provides the most comprehensive website in the world for wildlife books, and has a staff with unrivalled knowledge about publications of all sorts, so I definitely recommend them. As a result of your

letter, we are now going to set up some recommended readings pages on our website, with direct links to NHBS, so that our supporters can access these books and order on line. We hope to have this started in time for Christmas.

There are just so many books on wildlife that it would be virtually impossible to make recommendations for general gifts. I am a little biased in so far as two of WLT's great supporters write wonderful, and very different books. Simon Barnes' '**How to be a Bad Birdwatcher**' is suitable for a wide range of people of all ages and interests and I think absolutely everyone couldn't help but be captivated by Andy Rouse's book '**Concepts of Nature - a Wildlife Photographer's Art**'. This is a stunning, coffee-table book with some of the best wildlife photographs I have ever seen, and the text is well written too. **You could win a copy of this book - see WLT Competition on back page.**

Corporate Support: is it just 'greenwash'?

I often look at the WLT website for project updates. But yesterday I came across your Corporate Sponsors pages. At first I was impressed by the number and variety of companies who are supporting WLT, but then I thought is this because companies simply want to jump on the environmental bandwagon and be seen as 'good guys', or am I being cynical?

Fred Sims, Liverpool

You are right to question the motives of companies seeming to jump on the green bandwagon. Under Charity Commission guidelines we can accept straight, no strings attached donation from anyone. But if a company wants its sponsorship of the WLT acknowledged, and wants to use it in its publicity, then we do carry out Due Diligence on the company concerned. The fact is that the business community has recognised that the public have serious concerns about what is happening to the natural environment, and our view is that if we can help them do something to benefit wildlife it must be worthwhile, provided the company has a genuine interest, and provided the activities of that company are not environmentally damaging. If they are damaging, we would want to see that the company is taking mitigation action. Mr Sims is not being cynical, but we take the view that working with business is the only realistic way forward.



NHBS Environment Bookstore
2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN
United Kingdom
Telephone : +44 (0)1803 865913
Fax : +44 (0)1803 865280
Email :customer.services@nhbs.co.uk
www.nhbs.com

Have your say through '*Dear WLT*'. Write to us with your comments and questions and if we publish your letter we will send you a large bar of Organic Meltdown chocolate courtesy of our sponsors, Brandstand.

Dear WLT, World Land Trust, Blyth House, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK
Or email the Editor:
viv@worldlandtrust.org

One Acre for £50

World Land Trust pledges to buy an acre on your behalf for £50 (or a Half Acre for £25) and you will receive a certificate to record your support and regular updates if you wish.

Donate on the enclosed form, or online: www.worldlandtrust.org

Sir David Attenborough joins WLT in Suffolk for a Paraguayan evening



WLT Competition



We were honoured to welcome Sir David Attenborough to a WLT Reception, held in Suffolk this summer, to announce the signing of a shared agreement between Guyra Paraguay, the Paraguayan Government and the World Land Trust to manage the Dry Chaco Biosphere Reserve. (see Editorial and Page 3).

Sir David spoke of his love for Paraguay resulting from his filming trips there 50 years ago for the Zoo Quest programmes. He said: "This is one of the last great wilderness areas left in the world,

and it is hugely encouraging that much of it is still as it was when I was there half a century ago." We also showed some archive clips from those Zoo Quest programmes of 50 years ago, and everyone was enthralled.

As well as individual and corporate supporters we were joined by Dr Jerry Bertrand, WLT's President, and the Chargé d'Affaires at the Paraguayan Embassy in the UK, Dr. Jose Gorostiaga. Alberto Yanosky, Executive Director of Guyra Paraguay, gave an illustrated presentation on the Dry Chaco Reserve and we showed a video message, sent over specially, from the Paraguayan Minister of Environment. Throughout the evening we were serenaded by the evocative music of Alberto Pino and Christoval Pederson, formerly of *Los Paraguayos*, who played traditional Paraguayan music on harp and guitar. **Many thanks to all our sponsors of this event.**



First prize: Concepts of Nature: A Wildlife Photographer's Art by Andy Rouse

Answer the following 5 questions, the answers to which appear in this issue of WLT News.

1. Belize was formerly called British Honduras
TRUE OR FALSE
2. La Milpa field station is on Danjungan Island
TRUE OR FALSE
3. Orang-utans are found in South America
TRUE OR FALSE
4. The Rio Canandé reserve in Ecuador is one of the wettest places on earth
TRUE OR FALSE
5. Jaguars do not occur in the Dry Chaco
TRUE OR FALSE

Send your answers with your name and address to:
WLT Competition, Blyth House, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK.

Entries to be received by 12 February 2009
The winner of the WLT News Spring 2008 competition was Joanna Linton of Bucksburn, Aberdeen who won a WLT Goody Bag. Thanks to WLT sponsors for providing all the gift items.

Top Left: Sir David Attenborough with (l-r) Nigel Simpson (WLT Trustee), Byron Swift (Exec Director, WLT-US), Vivien Burton (Head of Communications, WLT), John Burton (CEO, WLT) and Paul Salaman (Projects Director, WLT-US).

Left: Sir David enjoys the traditional Paraguayan music.
Right: (l-r) Sr Jose Gorostiaga, Chargé d'Affaires, Paraguayan Embassy in London, with Alberto Yanosky, Exec Director of Guyra Paraguay.

Cover picture

The Nature Picture Library supports WLT by providing free use of images for publication and fundraising purposes, up to £2,000 a year. This photograph was taken by celebrated wildlife photographer, Andy Rouse, himself a supporter of WLT. (See WLT Competition prize)



Andy is passionate about wildlife and says: "I hope that my photographs contribute to the general appreciation of our precious wildlife, hopefully stimulating us all to act on their behalf." www.naturepl.com



WORLD LAND TRUST



World Land Trust will be 20 years old in 2009

Help us Celebrate our milestone birthday by making this the best year ever for saving threatened land and all their wildlife.

Please join us at our celebratory events as well. Details will be posted on our website or available from the WLT office.

LAST WORD

A Birthday Gift for an Octogenarian Beryl Bailey, who makes regular donations as a WLT Partner, recently celebrated her 80th Birthday. Instead of the usual gifts, Beryl asked her party guests to donate to World Land Trust for her birthday, instead. A total of £270.00 was gifted which has enabled WLT to protect just over 5 acres on her behalf.

Congratulations and thanks to Beryl, for choosing to support our work in this way; thank you also to everyone who contributed.