



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

news

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Guest editorial

A passion for wilderness and wildlife by Albertino Abela



Above: To celebrate their wedding in 2006 rather than traditional gifts, Albertino Abela and Diane Zaccar asked friends and relatives to donate towards a reserve area in Brazil. The photograph above was taken while on "their" reserve area and is now incorporated into the REGUA reserve in Brazil.

L-R: A REGUA field ranger, Nicholas and Raquel Locke who run the REGUA project, Albertino and Diane Abela, with Kirsty Burgess, WLT Conservation Programmes Manager.

Although I'd been involved in the work of the WLT for several years, and served as a Trustee for the past 5 years, it was in May this year that I was elected Chairman of the Board. This is a role that I find as daunting as I do exciting. I have found that the Trust doesn't stand still, there's always a lot of 'homework' for trustees and it is easy to feel a little bogged down.

I first came to the Trust because I had decided that I wanted to support conservation through land purchase and protection. But perhaps more important, I wanted to find an organisation that would give me an opportunity to get actively involved rather than simply making donations. I wanted to understand the nuts and bolts of the projects and feel an engagement with both the work being carried out in the UK and also on the overseas projects. At WLT I am actively encouraged to make field trips to project sites and meet the partners in whom the ownership of the reserves are vested. The past five years have given me a real insight into how the Trust achieves conservation and has provided me with a great learning experience on the way.

My interest in conservation goes back as far as I can remember. Growing up in Lebanon, as one might imagine I was made aware very early on that the country's wonderful natural resources were under huge pressure. Its swathes of forest and beautiful coastal regions have been systematically destroyed by rapacious property developers particularly during the civil war. It is a country close to my heart and soon after I was introduced to WLT I asked John Burton if there was anything we could do to help conservation in Lebanon. It is a real success story that following the feasibility study we carried out a few years ago a reserve in South Lebanon was created which is now run by The Society of Jabal Rihane. This year a new website has been launched: www.jabalrihane.wordpress.com. While not strictly speaking a WLT project it was through the Trust's expertise and impressive network that this important conservation initiative was made possible.

Looking back at my childhood, much of which was also spent near Grasse in France, I recall when I was about 8 years of age being horrified to witness a hillside of wonderful forest deliberately set alight by developers. There didn't seem any rhyme or reason for such blatant environmental

vandalism then, nor does there today. Then, when I was 16, travelling in Borneo, I saw horrific destruction of forests and this cut me to the quick. Since then I have had a particular affinity with this part of the world and have done as much as I can to support conservation in Borneo.

I have always had a passion for animals and have been surrounded by my pets. When I've had free time I have usually chosen to visit parts of the world where I can encounter wildlife. Now that I have two young children I find that this responsibility makes me doubly determined to do as much as I can to save some of the wonderful habitats and their creatures that I have been lucky enough to see in my lifetime for them to see.

To me, the mix of passion and expertise, together with the vision for how best to fund conservation working through local people, is what makes the World Land Trust special. I am honoured to be the new Chairman of the Trustees and take this role very seriously indeed.

Chairman of the WLT Board

Albertino Abela was educated at the London School of Economics where he earned an honours degree. He is Executive Vice President of the catering company: Albert Abela Corporation, a company founded by his father fifty years ago.

WLT Celebrates its 20th Anniversary: May 1989 - May 2009



The World Land Trust was officially launched on 8 May 1989 when the late Gerald Durrell, and his wife Lee, came over to the UK to join WLT's now Honorary President, Dr Jerry Bertrand, sponsors Today Newspaper and Tate & Lyle, and guests.

At that time the WLT was known by its first project name: Programme for Belize, and on 8 May this year WLT reconfirmed its support for Pfb, which now owns and protects over 262,000 acres for conservation.

Retrospective and Prospective at the Linnean Society of London, 8 May 2009

On 8 May this year, 20 years to the day after the Launch of the Trust, we were delighted to welcome Lee Durrell, the Director of Programme for Belize, Edilberto Romero and Dr Jerry Bertrand to join us for our celebrations, along with a large group of WLT supporters.

Dr Lee Durrell spoke of her love for Belize and her many visits with Gerry Durrell. She recalled the launch of the Trust at the London Butterfly House in Syon Park and spoke of her continuing involvement in Belizean conservation.

Dr Gerard (Jerry) Bertrand, Hon President of WLT and one of the founders of Programme for Belize then gave an overview on Pfb as a new model for conservation, now 20 years old. He described how the concept was born and how it got off the ground to become the success that it is today.

Edilberto Romero, Director of Pfb, gave an update on the project which now has its HQ in Belize City and two field stations open to visitors and scientists at La Milpa and Hill Bank. Pfb's forests cover some 262,000 acres of tropical forest and other threatened habitats. Edilberto looked back over conservation achievements over last 2 decades in Belize and also at opportunities for the future.

John Burton paid tribute to the very many people who had been significant in the development of the Trust over the years and thanked everyone in equal measure for their tremendous support: individual supporters, companies, foundations, groups alike. In closing he thanked WLT's Patrons: Sir David Attenborough and David Gower for their invaluable and enthusiastic support.



Above left: Dr Jerry Bertrand and Dr Lee Durrell (front row) enjoy the presentations.



Above right: Lee Durrell recalls the launch of Programme for Belize and her many visits to Belize with Gerry Durrell.



Right: Former Trustee, Jane Krish (right) and founder Trustee, Bruce Coleman (centre) chat with Her Excellency, Camilla Palma from the Belizean High Commission in London.



Left: At the AGM earlier in the day, Renton Righelato (left) retired as Chairman of the Trustees and was succeeded by Albertino Abela (right).

Also seen in this photograph is Trustee, Gil Child (top left). Born and raised in East Africa, Gil worked for many years for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), becoming Secretary to the African Working Party on Wildlife Management and National Parks. He brings a lifetime's expertise to the WLT board particularly relating to African issues.

Anniversary Project: Further Fund provided for Programme for Belize

You will read quite a lot in this issue of **WLT News** of the need to raise funds to pay for Park Guards and Rangers on WLT-funded reserves. Pfb forests are an important stronghold for Jaguar, as well as a wealth of other wildlife, becoming increasingly rare in Central and South America. At its 20th Anniversary Celebrations WLT committed US\$10,000 to Pfb for this purpose.



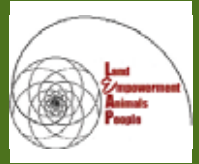
Above: Pfb Director, Edilberto Romero.



"As Patron of the World Land Trust I support the notion that tropical forests and other threatened habitats and their wildlife must be saved at all cost."
Sir David Attenborough, WLT Patron



WLT Urgent Appeal has wide reaching effects: hope for Orang-utans



Below: During a field visit to Borneo in July, Mary Tibbett, WLT's Conservation Projects Officer for Asia Region, was lucky enough to have a rare encounter with a herd of Borneo Pygmy Elephants on the banks of the Kinabatangan River. She was accompanied by Cynthia Ong, Executive Director of WLT's project partner LEAP Conservancy, who said: "We are almost opposite the land that WLT are helping to purchase, the elephants have come out to say thank you!"



Securing Land in the Kinabatangan Flood Plain

The photograph above shows the 222 acres of land in the Lower Kinabatangan floodplain that WLT is currently funding the purchase of. The purchase has been a complicated process but it is now going through and meanwhile we have been able to fund a second parcel of strategically important forest in a bid to establish viable contiguous reserve areas for wildlife to move safely.



SUCCESS STORY: We need to keep up the Action. Read Why . . .

The Importance of Wildlife Corridors for wildlife & the 'leverage effect'

WLT is convinced that the creation of wildlife corridors, to provide a safe way for animals to move between larger forest blocks, is critical.

WLT and LEAP Conservancy have worked tirelessly to secure important habitat for wildlife in the Lower Kinabatangan region of Sabah, and our utmost concern in conserving this critically threatened habitat has not gone unnoticed. International investment in conservation of Sabah's unique environment has made their government pay attention and really listen to the international voices urging that action be taken to prevent the extinction of Orang-utans. WLT is gratified that its Borneo Appeal is proving to have an incredible effect in leveraging government support which has led to governmental departments

promising assistance to LEAP during the land purchase processes. And, miraculously, WLT's commitment to the Kinabatangan region has acted to instil national pride in their beautiful forests among Sabah's ministers who have said that they are both encouraged and humbled by the international goodwill to conserve the Bornean Orang-utan.

In early October wildlife corridors were put on Sabah's political agenda in an unprecedented meeting between conservationists, Orang-utan experts, top government representatives and the plantation industries. The Orang-utan Conservation Colloquium (OUCC) which was co-sponsored by another of WLT's Bornean project partners, HUTAN, engaged representatives from the Sabah government and palm oil sectors to

become involved in the challenge to save the Orang-utan in Borneo. With an attendance of 150 delegates the OUCC called for the Lower Kinabatangan area to be adopted as a "case study" for Borneo to ascertain if the compulsory creation of wildlife corridors in key Orang-utan habitats could contribute to long-term wildlife conservation in Borneo.

Plans to create corridors of 100m either side of the Kinabatangan river and its tributaries, as well as looking at the possibility of certifying all Kinabatangan palm oil as sustainable, are just some of the resolutions drawn up and adopted during the colloquium. The Sabah State Cabinet will endorse all these resolutions once a position paper has been drawn up by the Sabah Wildlife Department.

Pantanal Wetlands, Dry Chaco and Atlantic Rainforest Good and Not-so-Good News from Paraguay



Good News

by Lorienne Parker, WLT's Conservation Projects Officer for South America

In July I travelled to Paraguay with WLT's CEO, John Burton, and Professor Tony Davy, from the University of East Anglia. Funded by UEA, the aim of the visit was to meet WLT's local partners, Guyra Paraguay, and representatives of other Paraguayan institutions, and to visit field sites with a view to developing a long-term research collaborations with the University of East Anglia, which is based in Norwich.

We visited the three main reserves that WLT is helping Guyra Paraguay to purchase and protect: the Chaco-Pantanal Reserve, Campo Iris Nature Reserve in the Dry Chaco and the Guyra Reta Reserve in the Atlantic Forest.

Being able to visit three such different ecosystems within one small country is a clear demonstration of the contrasts in Paraguay's unique wildlife habitats, and each has its own wealth of biodiversity. Without very much effort we saw a huge number of different birds on each of the reserves, including Latin America's tallest flying bird, the Jabiru Stork, and many other aquatic birds in the Chaco-Pantanal. We also saw Caiman, Titi Monkey and a silver flash of the rarely seen River Otter. Other highlights included seeing a Tapir from the air, and a Grey Brocket Deer on the Campo Iris Nature Reserve, which was the first time that this animal had been recorded on the reserve. But for me the highlight was an incredible close encounter with a family of Giant Otters whilst canoeing on the Rio Negro, in front of the Three Giants Biological Station.

The visit was a great success and we explored many different collaborations, not only relating to conservation and biodiversity research, but also ethnobotany, architecture and art history. Professor Davy will be giving a lecture on the site visit at the University of East Anglia shortly and I will be pleased to give more details to anyone who contacts me: lparker@worldlandtrust.org, Tel 01986 874 422.

Our plans are progressing well for students and staff from UEA to carry out long and short-term research in conjunction with Guyra Paraguay, using the excellent facilities on the reserves.



Above: Tony Davy (centre, wearing white shirt) with Guyra Paraguay staff and Guyra Reta park rangers, outside the new accommodation at Kanguy Biological Station on the reserve.

Right: (l-r) Tony Davy with John Burton, standing alongside a huge cactus in the Campo Iris Reserve which protects the fragile Dry Chaco.



Sponsor a Park Ranger

**Help save wildlife and
Make a new friend at the same time**

While WLT is urgently fundraising to purchase threatened land there is also the cost of protecting the reserves to be considered. Our Partners need to ensure boundaries are clearly marked, make regular site visits to protect against incursions, the trails need to be kept open, and wildlife is monitored. The dedicated Park Rangers do all this for around US\$5000 (£3,000) a year per ranger. This isn't a lot spread over a year but it makes all the difference in maintaining a safe, secure reserve and it really is money well spent.

What's needed

- \$5000 (£3000) will pay for a Ranger for a year
- \$800 (£500) will provide for a lap-top computer at the base camp to keep records, and carry out research.
- \$200 (£125) will buy a ranger a digital camera to record problems, photograph wildlife etc.

Will you help?

Guyra Paraguay will send regular reports direct to all sponsors of £1,000 or more, if requested. If you sponsor a Ranger they will put you in direct contact with 'your' Ranger if you wish and you will be recognised as part of the park protection team. This is an ideal way of involving schools, companies and other groups.

Please email us if you would like to help in this way: info@worldlandtrust.org

Not-so Good News

The not-so good news is that the destruction of forests of the Dry Chaco has continued at an alarming rate in 2009 – and all apparently 'legal'. Licences for deforestation have been issued in the past, and over 2,400 acres (1,000 ha) **a day** has been the average rate of destruction we are informed. Our colleagues at Guyra Paraguay say that one of the apparent causes of this destruction appears to be the acquisition of land by Brazilians, Uruguayans and Europeans, who, by selling up expensive agricultural lands, have the cash to invest in the relatively cheap land of Paraguay. We are preparing a briefing document on this complex issue which will be available on our website, or by phoning the office for a copy.

A minor success – leading to greater things?

In the Chaco-Pantanal Reserve it is particularly encouraging that young members of the Ecoclub, founded by Guyra Paraguay in 2003 in the remote town of Bahia Negra, are among the first intake to be trained as new rangers. They joined the club when they were young teenagers and now want to get really involved in the Reserve's protection.

£50 can still buy an Acre of threatened land in Paraguay. Help us save this mosaic of wilderness habitats while there is still time.

You will be saving Giant Otters, Jabiru Storks, Brocket Deer and much more.

Saving Ecuador's threatened habitats Reserve by Reserve, Acre by Acre



Centre: White-tailed Jays. These birds are frequently sighted in the area and are known locally as the **Urraca**, hence the choice of name for the Lodge.

Left: The Urraca Lodge nestles within the Jorupe Reserve and the verandas are excellent places from which to watch wildlife.

Urraca Lodge Opens at Jorupe Reserve

Fundación Jocotoco (FJ) owns, manages, or is part owner, of nine reserves, located on both east and west slopes along the Andes from Rio Canandé in the north, to Jorupe near the border with Peru.

The Jorupe Reserve was the scene of much activity in August when its new visitor Lodge was officially opened. The ceremony was attended by the Ambassadors of USA and Great Britain, the Prefect of the Province of Loja, the Mayor of Macara, and the Deputy Mayor of the City of Loja, as well as FJ trustees and staff. Heather Hodge, the US Ambassador, 'cut the ribbon'.

The Lodge has six twin cabins and verandas for wildlife watching. Built on a ridge overlooking the Jorupe valley towards Peru, the Lodge buildings nestle within the dry Tumbesian forest so that visitors really feel part of their natural surroundings, with birds and other wildlife right 'up close'. White-tailed Jays, Ochre-breasted Doves, Slaty Becards, and Rufous-necked Woodrails have already been seen.

The Lodge will bring in much-needed income to cover the management and protection of the reserve and this will be supplemented by the sale of coffee harvested within the reserve. For

information about staying at the Lodge please email FJ's Eco-tourism Co-ordinator, Cecilia Sáenz, at: reservations@fjocotoco.org.

The Tumbesian ecoregion is characterised by its dry forests and is endangered in itself, with a host of threatened species. The Jorupe Reserve is one of the very best examples of this forest type with some 50 Tumbesian endemic bird species occurring, eight of which are globally threatened. WLT's Restoration Ecology project is involved in planting 20,000 dry forest trees on areas previously cleared.

Meeting a remarkable tree in the Candelaria Reserve



"We had been told about a huge ancient tree in the Candelaria Reserve which had just been found by our colleagues at Fundación EcoMinga. They said it was an ancient 'cedro' towering above the main canopy of the forest", says Nigel Simpson. "We wanted to see if we could find it and set off upstream along the gorge of the river Chin Chin. After an hour of climbing and

crossing two stream valleys we noticed large emergent trees on the opposite mountainside. We crossed a large waterfall which had an Andean Dipper perched halfway up it, and a Black-billed Mountain-Toucan and a Highland Motmot calling from the canopy. Then, after twenty minutes hard walking there it was, unmistakably, about

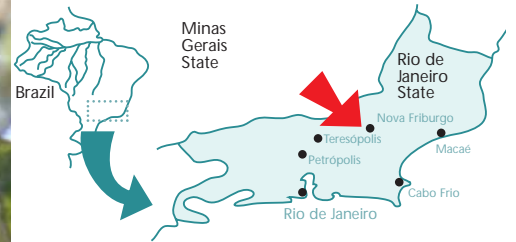
thirty metres in front of us. Considering the location, on a steep (greater than 45 degree) slope, rainfall of about 5m a year, and very prone to earth tremors and landslides, it was quite astonishing that it could have survived for the several hundred years needed to reach this size. This tree was over two metres in diameter at its base, about 5.5m circumference at chest height, and somewhere between 50 and 70m tall. It was difficult to see the top as it broke into multiple branches, and the steep rough terrain and surrounding trees prevented us getting a clear view. It was a majestic sight, and a tree I'll never forget, made all the better by the effort of getting there."

Above left: Lou Jost, with Fundación EcoMinga's Candelaria Reserve rangers, setting out in search of 'an ancient towering tree' high up in the reserve. Lou Jost is on the left and the Manager of the Reserve, Pablo Reyes, is second from right. **Centre:** The tree is found. **Above right:** Nigel Simpson beside the tree's mighty trunk.

Nigel Simpson is a co-founder of Fundación Jocotoco and Fundación EcoMinga and a WLT Trustee.

Atlantic Rainforest experience

Important new land purchase and wildlife galore



The red arrow indicates the location of the REGUA Reserve



Main photo: Two juvenile Striped Owls. This photo was taken near the wetlands on the REGUA reserve. A medium-sized owl, Striped Owls have ear tufts that are well developed and project to the sides, or to the top when disturbed, as was the case here.

Inset: Bats at one of the nectar-feeders.

Night time in the REGUA Reserve

Nights are just as exciting as the daytime in the Atlantic Rainforest of Brazil and REGUA enjoy organising night trips for visitors to experience the starry skies and see a variety of nocturnal birds, mammals and other wildlife. The wetland and adjacent forest trails can be very productive at night and are easily accessible from the Lodge.

Birds regularly encountered at night include Black-crowned Night-Heron, Giant Snipe, Barn Owl,

Tropical Screech-Owl, Tawny-browed Owl, Striped Owl (*above*), Common Potoo, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Pauraque, Spot-tailed Nightjar and Scissor-tailed Nightjar.

In addition to birds a variety of mammals are also possible. Among those frequently seen are Common Grey Four-eyed Opossum, South-eastern Common Opossum, Nine-banded Armadillo, Fishing Bat, Crab-eating Fox, Capybara and Paca. Other sightings might include Broad-

snouted Caiman and a variety of frogs. The best weather conditions for night walks are calm moonlit nights when birds are generally more vocal and so easier to locate. The Lodge garden is also worth watching at night. The fruit feeders attract opossums as well bats and moths, and the hummingbird feeders, humming with them during the day, transform into feeding stations for nectar-loving bats.

www.guapiassubirdlodge.com

New Land Purchase at REGUA

Known currently as the Lemgruber land, after its former owners, WLT is delighted to announce that, with funds provided by many of its supporters and in particular Rashid School for Boys in Dubai and the Damuth Foundation, REGUA has been able to purchase 1,632 acres (680 ha) of stunning rainforest, now incorporated into the Reserve. The forests stretching from 200m to 1,500m above sea level are linked contiguously within the reserve through the Matumbo Gap, the area purchased in 2008. REGUA now owns and manages over 17,000 acres (7,120 ha).

Volunteering at REGUA

The REGUA volunteer programme has been running for three years. As a volunteer, not only can you experience this beautiful environment, but you will also be making a genuine contribution to the conservation of the Atlantic Rainforest. You don't need a specialist skill or qualifications, but you do need a genuine willingness and enthusiasm to give something back to a worthwhile project in Brazil. You also need to fully understand what it takes to live in the tropics and be ready to work hard. To find out more about volunteering go to REGUA's website:

www.regua.co.uk/volunteer.html

A Volunteer, writes:

"To be volunteering at a proper reserve, rather than with one of these roving bands of biodiversity assessing biologists, gives satisfaction and a sense that you do make a real difference. What did I enjoy about REGUA? With a new wetland being constructed and re-planting of forest, it is an exciting place to be. To think that in years to come we will have helped a huge canopy to be restored is an invigorating thought. I enjoyed the earthiness and practicality of the tasks as well, such as collecting seeds with Mauricio and shovelling manure with Moses to help the seedlings grow. However, to me the wildlife and the fact that it is being protected was one of the greatest joys."

from volunteer Humphrey Wood

Wildlife Corridors in India

The best way to safeguard wildlife



World Land Trust is working with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) to protect 88 wildlife corridors, essential for the survival of Indian elephants and many other large mammals on the continent.

Elephants use traditional migratory routes in their search for food and although some of their forests are protected they are 'islands' among agricultural land. This means that elephants frequently cause devastation in small rural communities as they journey between reserves.

WLT is urgently raising funds for the purchase and protection of these corridors and meanwhile WTI are working with local communities who are keen to move away from the threat of elephant damage. The first corridor protected was in Meghalaya state in the Garo Hills and more recently WLT and WTI have been involved in an ambitious corridor project in Kerala.

Report from Kerala Corridor

Being rehoused was 'like a blessing from God' says Kenchan, a villager who has recently been moved away from the Kerala Elephant corridor.

Kenchan, who earlier this year was voluntarily relocated from the village of Valiyammadi, with funds raised through WLT's Indian Elephant Corridors Appeal, was provided with alternative land, a newly-constructed house and other basic amenities at the relocation site of Panavally.

Speaking about the experience of suffering regular elephant raids on her smallholding Kenchan said "We were forced to remain indoors and quietly pray that the elephants go away soon". Now both Kenchan and the elephants have no need to worry, Panavally is located well outside the usual migration route. WTI's manager of the Elephant Corridor Programme, Dr Sandeep Kr Tiwari, said:

"The Valiyammadi residents are not only relieved to be away from conflicts with elephants, but are assured better living conditions with education, medical facilities, and other basic needs all more accessible."

"From the viewpoint of elephants, we are a step closer to achieving our goal of securing the Wayanad Corridor. This will safeguard their territories and maintain genetic exchange between otherwise fragmented elephant populations. This really is a win-win situation for humans and elephants."



Above: The site of the Elephant Corridor in Kerala.

Left: Journalist, Simon Barnes (centre) is seen here with John Burton (back right) and Marie Chambers (left), while in Corbett National Park in northern India. This field visit was organised for **The Times** and Simon has featured the work of WTI many times in his weekly columns. WLT hopes to fund Elephant Corridors around Corbett National Park to protect Tigers as well as Elephants, in 2010.

Marie Chambers, at that time worked for **elephant family** which also raises funds for WTI. She has recently joined WLT's staff working on event and corporate support.

The elephants used for taking visitors out into the field are rescued from the streets of India, and temples, and are rehabilitated in the national parks. Unsited to being completely wild they have an easy retirement taking out occasional groups and being free to roam the rest of the time.

By using elephants as a flagship species, many other wildlife are also protected by the Elephant corridors



Left: The Stripe-necked mongoose is the largest Asiatic mongoose and occurs in southern India, and in the Kerala Elephant Corridor



Right: The mighty Gaur is the largest species of wild cattle, again, protected by the Kerala corridor.

Danjugan Island: Learning Centre inaugurated

A learning centre has recently been inaugurated on Danjugan Island, the island in the Visayan Islands Group in the Philippines, purchased with funds raised by WLT.

The centre and adjacent watch tower were funded under the International Climate Change Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Natural Conservation and Nuclear Safety, through the German



Technical Cooperation (GTZ) under a project entitled "Adaptation to Climate Change and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Philippines (ACCBio)."

Another example of how funds from WLT in the first instance can lead to huge leverage further down the line.

WLT in Africa

Working with Nature Kenya and Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania

Saving Sharpe's Longclaw: The 'Skylark of the Kenyan Grasslands'

As we reported in the Spring issue of **WLT News** the World Land Trust now has two project partners in Africa: Nature Kenya and the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania.

In Kenya we are focusing on the Kinangop Highland Grasslands approximately 100 km north west of Nairobi. This area is designated an Important Bird Area and the survival of a bird called Sharpe's Longclaw, which is globally endangered and found only in Kenya, depends on this habitat.

As Ernest Mwangela, Communications Officer with Nature Kenya reports:

"These montane grasslands on the Kinangop Plateau east of the Rift Valley have been used mainly for dairy farming since human settlement in the 1900s. Originally the entire plateau was covered with almost treeless

tussocky grassland, including many tussock bogs in the swampy valleys. However, since the 1960s large areas of land have been ploughed for cultivation (Mainly maize, wheat, cabbages and potatoes) or to remove the tussock grass because livestock do not eat it. Plantations of introduced trees, such as Eucalyptus, now dot the landscape and many of the wetlands have been drained.

"Sharpe's Longclaw is a small slender bird with upperparts streaked brown, bright yellow underparts and a 'necklace' of black streaks. It is confined to the highland grasslands of Kenya-Mount Elgon, Molo/Mau Narok, Uasin Gishu and especially Kinangop; they can only survive in short tussock grasslands at high elevations."



The First Land Purchase

Nature Kenya have already purchased the first 95 acres to create a protected sector of grassland and WLT (working with IUCN Netherlands) have raised funds for an additional plot of up to 100 acres. Nature Kenya is currently negotiating the purchase.

Friends of Kinangop Plateau, a community based organisation which works with Nature Kenya as a Site Support Group, have initiated several conservation projects and the reserves are now confirmed breeding sites for the birds and demonstrate viable, sustainable economically sound and environmentally friendly land use to the landowners. Sheep for example, graze on the natural grasslands without disturbing the birds and local people spin and weave the wool and sell their products; this helps both the communities and the birds alike.

Funds are urgently needed to save more of this threatened grassland habitat.

Forests restored through WLT's Carbon Balanced Programme

WLT is carrying out a Restoration Project in the Bunduki Gap with funds raised through Carbon Balancing.

The Uluguru Mountains in eastern Tanzania are one of the most important mountain ranges in Africa for biodiversity. They are also the source of the water supply for the largest city in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, which has over 3-million people. These mountains contain examples of two of the main forest types in Eastern Africa - montane and lowland coastal.

The montane forests, in particular, are exceptionally important for their endemic bird species and a wide variety of plants including many endemic species widely known as house plants throughout the world: Saintpaulia (African Violet), Impatiens (Busy Lizzie), Begonia and Streptocarpus.

Some of the wild ancestors of these plants are only found in the Ulugurus.

Due to systematic deforestation over many decades an area was identified between existing protected forests which

was posing a barrier to free movement of wildlife across the forests, known as the Bunduki Gap. In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania, WLT is funding a reforestation project in the 'Gap' to restore the biological link between the protected forests and also maintain water supplies.



Above: WLT's Ruth Canning and John Burton with the local community who will be involved in the tree planting.



WLT's Restoration Ecology Programme works where deforestation is most intense. With funds raised through companies and individuals who carbon balance their unavoidable emissions with WLT the Trust is able to restore areas of forest, concentrating on cleared land adjacent to standing forests, to increase viable wildlife habitats.

Flying the flag for WLT

Team Aqua is a sailing team owned by WLT supporter, Chris Bake. The team competes internationally at a top level and they do their bit for the environment by carbon balancing their flights to and from competitions through WLT.



Saving tropical forests with WLT will lock up valuable carbon and help offset 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 the WLT office: 01986 874 422

WLT-US Update:

“One Million Acres of Amazon Rainforest saved”

World Land Trust-US and our partner in Peru, CEDIA (Center for the Development of the Indigenous Amazonians), are proud to announce that on 27 August 2009 the Matsés National Reserve was designated by the Peruvian national government.

This reserve encompasses 1,039,390 acres (433,080 ha) of pristine Amazonian rainforest and is home to the Matsés indigenous people, and a rich variety of plant and animal species. This long awaited triumph to save the Amazonian rainforests has been sought for 13 years by CEDIA, working with the Matsés peoples and providing technical assistance to the government Park Service (SEMARNAP). During much of this time, WLT-US has been the main financing source for CEDIA's efforts with the Matsés, supporting community work and technical assistance to the government. During those 13 years, the Matsés have overcome numerous challenges including attempts by commercial interests to log these forests.

The Matsés Reserve was designated for its exceptional biodiversity and to protect lands traditionally used by the Matsés indigenous peoples who were first contacted in 1969, and live on their adjacent community lands. Like so many other remote indigenous peoples, they have been forced to defend their homelands in a bid to preserve their ancient way of life and protect the amazing Amazon rainforest ecosystem in which they live.

During a two week biological exploration of the area in late 2004, a team from Chicago's Field Museum recorded 65 species of mammal and 416 species of bird, and an estimated 3,000-4,000 plant species. Two endangered monkey species, the Bald Uakari and the tiny Goeldi's Marmoset, were also recorded. The proposed reserve area includes an archipelago of white-sand forests with floral and faunal endemics representing a rare habitat in the Amazon. This is a region with extraordinary diversity of plants and animals.

WLT-US will continue to help our partners in managing this new National Reserve as well as supporting the community to develop alternative income-producing activities. Your contributions are vital to help WLT-US save many more acres of rainforest while they are still standing.



Above: Goeldi's Marmoset is dependent on rainforest in the Amazon basin for its survival. Their diet includes fruit berries insects and spiders; and they are particularly partial to moths and butterflies which they eat headfirst. They live in groups of two to ten individuals.

Above: Matsés settlements are now protected from mining and logging encroachment by the new National Reserve.



Due to the perseverance of our partner and the commitment of the Matsés communities, the National Reserve was finally declared. Sincere thanks go to the Natural Protected Area Service (SERNANP) and Ministry of Environment for this declaration, and to the many individual donors including the Wild Waters Fund, and the Blue Moon Foundation, for their support.

For information on WLT-US projects go to: 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/donate

WLT-funded Reserves are all about Wildlife



EAT CHOCOLATE - SAVE THE WORLD

Puma at Fundación Jocotoco's Yanacocha Reserve, Ecuador

The puma on the right was captured on film by a camera trap on an area of previously cleared land. The Yanacocha reserve protects high altitude elfin Polylepis forest on the slopes of the Pinchinca Volcano, north west of Quito. As well as Puma, Spectacled Bear are also known to occur on this reserve.



WLT Competition

First prize:
8 Full Size bars of Organic Meltdown Chocolate

Answer the following 5 questions (all the answers can be found in this issue)

- The WLT was launched in which year:
A) 1987
B) 1989
C) 2003
- The Trust's first project was:
A) Philippine Reef & Rainforest Project
B) REGUA project in Brazil
C) Programme for Belize
- Pygmy Elephants are only found in:
A) Africa
B) India
C) Borneo
- The Urraca Lodge in Ecuador is named after:
A) The White-tailed Jay
B) A fruit tree growing in the Jorupe Reserve
C) The nearest town to the Reserve
- Sharpe's Longclaw needs this habitat:
A) Tropical Rainforest
B) Pantanal Wetland
C) Tussock Grassland

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 10 February 2010
Prize kindly donated by Brand Stand Chocolate.

The winner of the Spring competition was Mr D G Chapel from Cumberland, who won a copy of the book *Rainforest Safari* by James Parry. Thank you to the publishers, Carlton Books, for donating the prize.

Who else offers to buy you a whole acre of irreplaceable habitat for only £50 ??

WLT pledges to buy an acre on your behalf for £50 (or a Half Acre, or 2,000 sq m, 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

Margay kitten at Sierra Gorda, Mexico

Roberto Pedraza, Technical Officer of WLT's partner organisation, Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda, writes:

"We rescued this Margay kitten after it was trapped by dogs, climbed a tree and was taken by someone who kept it in his house with a rope around its neck. Although a tiny kitten when we found her she retained her wild spirit and over the months learned to hunt efficiently. We released her in September in one of our cloud forest reserves in the Hoya del Hielo area where



Foto: Roberto Pedraza Ruiz

previously we have photographed Jaguars, Ocelot and Margay. We feel optimistic about her survival."

Cover picture

Artist, Oenone Hammersley, generously donates the use of her images to WLT. She specializes in painting rainforests and wildlife and has been exhibiting for many years. Oenone is committed to furthering the cause of conservation through her work and has self-published a lovely children's book, suitable for 5-10 year olds. Called *"A Wild and Wonderful Journey"* it is available at a special price for WLT Supporters. For details please email her: hammersley12@yahoo.com www.oenonehammersley.com



Saving Life on Earth with World Land Trust

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 Corporate Supporters Saving Wildlife



These are real photographs!

WLT benefits from the sale of Puro Fairtrade coffee which, until now has only been available in cafes, pubs and other commercial outlets. But now the coffee is available to purchase online.

Puro has been supporting WLT for the past 3 years and we are delighted that their coffee is now drunk all over the world, including at a Koala Sanctuary in Australia.



Top Left: Hummingbirds drinking out of a Puro cup in the Ecuadorian rainforest.

Top Right: A wild python, at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Brisbane in Australia.

The photo of the python was sent to us by Frans Van Tilborg, Managing Director of

Miko Coffee (the company that owns the Puro brand). He took it while visiting the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary which now provides Puro coffee for its visitors. This is the world's first and largest koala sanctuary, homing over 130 koalas. With an emphasis on conservation and education, Lone Pine also has other endemic and threatened wildlife from Down Under, including the Tasmanian Devil, Wombats, Echidnas, Dingos and Kangaroos. They got quite a shock one morning when they found a Python wrapped around a Puro cup! Appropriately their motto is: "The Earth is not only for Humans".

Order Puro Fairtrade coffee online at:
www.organicfairtradecoffee.co.uk



Birdfair: August, Rutland Water

WLT wanted to make a real splash at this year's Birdfair, to celebrate our 20th Anniversary and we achieved this with stunning support from our Corporate sponsors.

Enterprise Plants, WLT supporters for 18 years, provided lush rainforest plants, Puro Fairtrade coffee came along with a wonderful Bean-to-cup machine and offered visitors free coffee, which was complimented by delicious chocolate provided by Organic Meltdown. Calypso Soft Drinks donated bottles of BerryAid (spring water with real fruit juice) and Rainforest Friends toys lent a 'cuddly' feel to the stand. Finetra, the company whose cutting edge equipment is used for the Webcam in the Forest in Ecuador, donated the use of a large plasma screen and stand so that we could have the Webcam live at the Fair.

Thank you to all of them for joining in so generously. We also enjoyed meeting many supporters at the Fair and we congratulate WLT Council Member,



Simon Barnes on his Celebrity Lecture, which he is repeating for the Trust at The Cut arts centre in Suffolk in late November.

- www.enterpriseplants.co.uk
- www.puro.co.uk
- www.organicmeltdown.com
- www.calypso.co.uk
- www.saveourfriends.co.uk
- www.finetra.co.uk

Rainforest Toys for Christmas



WLT benefits from the sales of supersize, cuddly Rainforest Friends. Excellent Christmas gifts available online:
www.worldlandtrust.org
Or tel: 01986 874 422 for details

WIN Organic Meltdown CHOCOLATE See back page

