



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

news

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editorial

Anniversaries: a good time to look back, but a great time to move forward by John Burton

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As we approach our 20th Anniversary in 2009 we are thinking about how best to mark the occasion: A bumper review of what we've achieved over two decades? A public event with key speakers? The launch of a new major project? All are being considered. But I have recently noticed a very timely and perhaps even more significant anniversary.

I have just returned from a very special field trip to Paraguay, where we visited the Three Giants Biological Station in the heart of the Pantanal of Paraguay. I was accompanied by several major donors who wanted to see what they were helping save. Author and comedian Tony Hawks, who supports the Trust by assigning the Public Lending Rights in all his books to our Green Ink project, also joined us and he will be helping us with various events later in the year.

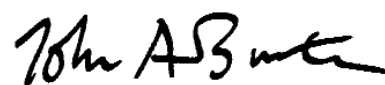
Researching the history of conservation in Paraguay I realised that 2008 is a significant Anniversary because it is exactly 50 years since our Patron, Sir David Attenborough visited Paraguay. Sir David was there in 1958 as part of his Zoo Quest series with cameraman Charles Lagus, when they were exploring the Chaco in search of the Giant Armadillo. And Sir David has followed all our activities in Paraguay avidly. What surprised me, skimming through his account of the country, was how little it has changed during the past half century. The Gran Chaco is one of the last great wildernesses of the world. And when David visited, the Chaco Giant Peccary was yet to be discovered by scientists. (See 'Last Word' on back page). Still little known, it is quite possible that other species await discovery in the Gran Chaco.

I said that the field trip was 'very special' and this wasn't just because of what we saw. During our visit the Government of Paraguay made the momentous announcement that it was to hand over the co-management and protection of over one million acres to WLT's partners, Guyra Paraguay. (See pages 6 & 7). Of course, on my return, Sir David was the first person I called to tell about this conservation milestone – and his enthusiasm was apparent, even over the phone: "That is tremendous ... Wonderful ... Well done to all ..."

When we started the Trust 19 years ago the idea of raising funds in the UK for land to be owned by people overseas, was little understood, and I do believe that we have had some remarkable achievements. It will be evident to all that WLT has, and is, continuing to grow. But we don't ever want to become a 'larger than life' organisation.

Some growth, of course, is essential: when we first set up the Trust (as Programme for Belize) it was a 3-person office. Now there may be up to 20 people working in our Suffolk office on any given day. But these aren't all full-time, paid members of staff. We have a vibrant mix of fulltime and part-time staff as well as short-contract consultants and students and interns, all of whom bring their diverse qualities to the running of the Trust. By keeping a core staff who are dedicated, informed, hard working and efficient I believe that we can help our overseas project partners save, create and protect many more reserves in the future. (see our staff on our website: www.worldlandtrust.org/about/staff.htm)

In May the World Land Trust, together with IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands, are inviting a key decision-maker from each of our overseas project partners, to attend a symposium being hosted by our very first partner, Programme for Belize. Deep in the rainforest of Belize, at the La Milpa Field Station, around 20 representatives will gather to discuss mutual problems, successes and issues for the future. It is the success of this network that gives encouragement for the future in creating a sustainable network of non-government nature reserves. I like to describe our objective as helping establish a network of mini RSPBs. If every country in the world had a conservation group as successful as the RSPB, we could look forward to a much better future. With a 19-year track record I do believe we are travelling in the right direction.



www.worldlandtrust.org | 2

www.wildlifefocus.org Webcam in the Forest

www.wildlifefocus.org is a new website for wildlife and nature lovers everywhere, offering unique, high-quality moving pictures to transport you into the deepest, darkest rainforests of Ecuador – all with the click of a mouse!

We are proud to present our first **Webcam in the Forest**, showing wildlife footage from the breathtaking and remote tropical forests of Fundación Jocotoco's **Buenaventura Reserve**. The webcam project has been funded by Puro Coffee and we hope that this will be the first of several live webcams showing supporters exactly what habitats and wildlife their donations are helping save.

The webcam in the Buenaventura Reserve is situated in a prime position to film the incredible variety of birds that come to visit strategically placed feeders in the reserve. You can see over 30 species of spectacular hummingbirds at the feeder and if you are lucky you could also catch a glimpse of two species of toucan. You could even win a week's holiday on the reserve: see Webcam Competition on back page.

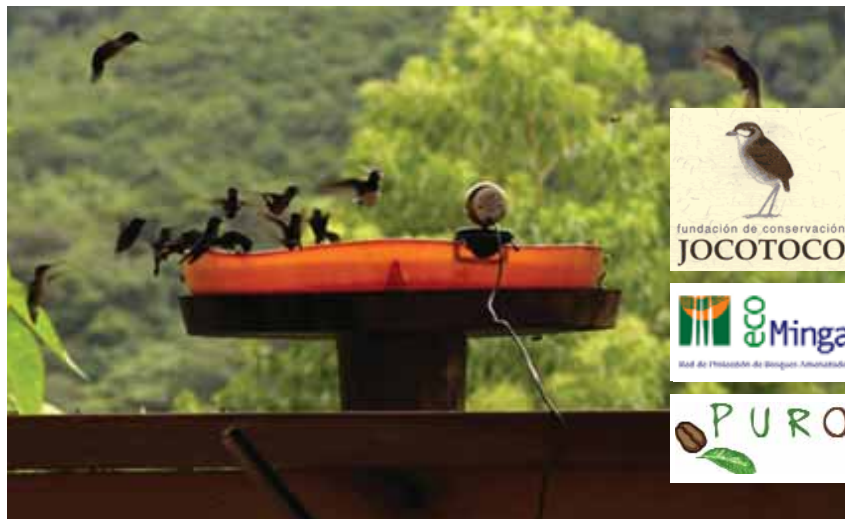
The webcam project is led by Jack Astbury, who has been working both in Ecuador and the UK to get the site up and running. He has been greatly assisted by Ecuadorian, Gustavo Morejón, who is a professional photographer, webmaster and conservationist, with a particular interest in the use of internet technologies used to preserve the environment. Gustavo is the technical consultant in charge of the Webcam project in Ecuador.

Sir David Attenborough launched the Webcam Project; an event that was attended by representatives of many of WLT corporate supporters, and others with a special interest in this wildlife film-making.

"As human beings we are more urbanised than ever before, and we are out of touch with the natural world. Yet we are 100% dependent on its resources. World Land Trust's new rainforest webcam is an extraordinary lifeline and communication with the natural world."

Sir David Attenborough, speaking at the launch of the Webcam Project

We were also joined at the Launch by Dr Lou Jost, from Fundación EcoMinga. During the evening he presented Sir David with a 'new' species of tree. See report on back page. Also see page 5 for more webcam news.



Above: The 'Webcam in the Forest'. Mesmerising moving images of an ever changing array of hummingbirds, and other birds, visiting the feeders in the forest .

Linnean Society of London, Burlington House, 17 January 2008



Left: The audience gather in the Lecture Theatre for the launch of the Webcam project, funded by Puro Coffee.



Below left: Jack Astbury (left) and Toby Gibson of WLT, make satellite contact with the webcam team in Ecuador.



Below right: Sir David Attenborough in conversation with John Burton, WLT CEO.



WLT thanks the Linnean Society for the use of the Lecture Theatre and Library for the Launch; also Puro Coffee for funding the project and PricewaterhouseCoopers for sponsoring the event. Thanks also to London's environmentally friendly car service, Ecoigo, for providing transportation for Sir David Attenborough.

Ecuador Update

Fundación Jocotoco reserves continue to grow



New land purchase, increasing the size of three existing Fundación Jocotoco reserves, has recently taken place, thanks to donations from WLT supporters. WLT and WLT-US have been able to leverage an additional donation through the American Bird Conservancy who have added a further 25% in matched funds. The Danish Ornithology Club have also donated US\$10,000 to both the Buenaventura and Jorupe land purchase costs.

Buenaventura

Adjoining parcels of land have been purchased adjacent to the Buenaventura Reserve, securing an additional 200 acres (80 ha) and protecting an important breeding site of the endangered El Oro Parakeet.

Jorupe

Jorupe was Fundación Jocotoco's seventh reserve and protects deciduous forest in the Tumbesian region of SW Ecuador, near its border with Peru. The reserve supports many endemic and rare species of plants and animals, including populations of numerous globally threatened birds. A further 125 acres (50 ha) have been purchased in the dry forest at the road frontage to the existing reserve.

Río Canandé

A 1,730 acre (700 ha) parcel is currently being purchased at the north east edge of Río Canandé. This reserve protects some of the last remaining Choco habitat (wet lowland coastal rainforest) in northern Ecuador, which has seen devastating clearance to make way for export crops including banana and oil palm. It is estimated that less than 4% of this forest remains which is home to dozens of endemic bird species and a large biodiversity of mammals including Jaguar, Tapir and three species of monkey.

WLT's Chairman, Renton Righelato, reports from Ecuador

Ecuador is remarkable in the diversity of its natural habitats and the range of species they contain – this is why it is such an important focus for the World Land Trust. In February, I was lucky enough to join a team from Fundación Jocotoco who were exploring two, wholly different, potential new reserve sites: Ayampe, warm and at sea level, and Antisana, at 4,000-6,000 m and very cold!

Near the settlement of Ayampe, in the warm, semi-arid, Tumbesian region, where the River Ayampe enters the Pacific, is a pocket of more humid forest. It is one of only two known sites of an endangered and virtually unknown hummingbird: the Esmeraldas Woodstar – a bird not much bigger than a bumble bee. Here we saw a male displaying by towering from its treetop perch out of sight in the sky and diving back down to a nearby female, who, it seems, is then responsible for nest-building, incubating and feeding the young, on her own. It was reassuring to see several nests, some with eggs and one with a tiny chick.

The FJ researchers will be returning later in the year to learn more of the life history of this wonderful little bird and how best to protect it. While there we also saw parties of Magnificent Frigate Birds soaring overhead, as well as the remarkable Ghost Bat, photographed below.

In contrast, the paramo on the slopes of the high volcanoes of Ecuador, is cold and wet. Like alpine meadows, unspoilt paramo is a rich mixture of plants with many beautiful flowers; but years of overgrazing and drainage have degraded much of it and plantation of foreign pine defaced it. Antisana has a few of the surviving Great Condors of Ecuador. The prospect of protecting and restoring up to 100,000 ha of paramo, and the polylepis forest of the lower slopes of one of the great volcanoes, could not be more exciting. We await further news from Fundación Jocotoco.

Renton Righelato was self funded on this trip.



Above: The Ayampe River valley, home of Esmeraldas Woodstar



Above right: The Northern Ghost Bat, about which little is known

John Sparks in Ecuador

Former Head of BBC Natural History Unit, Dr John Sparks has been a friend of the Trust for a long time. He has travelled all over the world making wildlife films, including five of Sir David Attenborough's *Life on Earth* programmes. In January he, and his wife, Sally, visited Ecuador and spent time at the Buenaventura and Tapichalaca Reserves. He has recently posted a wonderfully illustrated account of his visit on his website:

www.johnsparks.org

See "Bird Logs: Two Rainforests in Ecuador" pdf file.

Stop Press . . . from Yunguilla Reserve

This year's breeding season of the Critically Endangered Pale-headed Brush-Finch (*see right*) is now in progress, with excellent results. Ornithologist Niels Krabbe has just reported another dramatic increase from 84 pairs last year to 107 this year. The starting point was ca. 12 pairs in 1999, and this is the total world population.



Webcam in the Forest

Visit from Ecuador's Minister of Tourism



Recognising the wealth of wildlife protected by Fundación Jocotoco Reserves, Ecuador's Minister of Tourism, Veronica Sion de Josse, together with her husband and son, recently visited the Buenaventura Reserve. They were captivated by the webcam, and enjoyed watching the Coatis who come to the feeding tables. They also took the opportunity to get involved in tree planting, which is funded by the WLT's Carbon Balanced programme (see page 8).

Saving Elephants and other wildlife by purchasing and protecting corridors in India



"There is no such thing as a domestic elephant" said Vivek Menon, Executive Director of Wildlife Trust of India, opening a workshop on "Securing elephant corridors for long-term conservation of Elephants in India".

This three-day workshop was attended by representatives of all but two of the Indian States where Elephants still occur, and all expressed great enthusiasm for the work that had been carried out by the WTI in identifying the corridors that need protecting.



The results of this study, funded by IFAW, was used by WLT and Elephant Family to select the priority area for purchase, using funds raised by the **Trunks meet Trunks** event in London's Hyde Park last year. The £120,000 raised has now purchased part of the Tirunelli-Kudrakote corridor in Kerala. The families who formerly lived inside the corridor area have been relocated and within days the wildlife had started moving in. Not only Elephants, but Tigers too.

At the conclusion of the Workshop, the representatives of the State Forestry and Wildlife Department confirmed their decision to cooperate fully with NGOs on acquiring more corridors, and implementing other measures needed to allow the Elephants access to them.

Left: A group of life size willow elephants were made by topiary artist, Steve Manning and willow technician Joe Crane for the Elephant Family's Trunks meet Trunks exhibition last year. Another group will be on tour in the UK this year - keep a look out for them in your town.

Only 20,000 Elephants left in the wild in India: you could save an elephant's life for £500.

Together with Wildlife Trust of India we have worked out that for around £10-million we could purchase and protect all the privately-owned corridors needed to ensure Elephants a safe passage between national parks, forest reserves and other protected areas. With around 20,000 Elephants left, this means that for £500 (US\$1,000) you could save an Elephant, as well as helping Tigers and other large mammals too.

£500 will help save an Elephant, and £50,000 will buy an important corridor. But any donation will help. The beauty of the way WLT works is that all donations make a measurable and significant impact.

Saving Rainforests, Wetlands and Deserts in Paraguay Government shows its support for conservation



Putting Paraguay on the Map

Almost in the middle of the South American continent, Paraguay is about the same size as the state of California, is landlocked and has borders with Argentina in the west and south, Bolivia in the north and Brazil in the east.

Its natural habitats are of global importance and range from lush tropical forest to wetlands and periodically flooded forests to the driest of the Dry Chaco 'desert'.

The map (right) shows the three reserves which have been funded with the help of WLT: Campo Iris (Dry Chaco), the Chaco-Pantanal Reserve and San Rafael (Atlantic Rainforest).

All of Paraguay's unique habitats are threatened, primarily by the spread of agriculture, and in particular the growing market for biofuels and soya. Even the Dry Chaco, a seemingly impenetrable habitat, isn't safe as a new dry-adapted variety of soy has been developed and trials are already taking place in the Chaco.



Above: Main habitats are shown in green



There is GOOD NEWS

In March the Government of Paraguay signed an innovative co-management agreement which will conserve over 2.5-million acres of threatened habitat in Paraguay. This initial agreement is with the WLT's partners, Guyra Paraguay and in making the announcement, the Minister of the Environment, Carlos Antonio Lopez-Doze, supported by the Minister of Tourism, Liz Cramer, stated that the support of the World Land Trust and its donors in recognising the international importance of Paraguay's biodiversity, was a key factor in this momentous decision.

Over the next few months a formal tri-party Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment, Guyra Paraguay and the World Land Trust will be drawn up and signed, giving Guyra Paraguay the responsibility for the management of the Northern Chaco Biosphere Reserve, as well as the Atlantic Rainforest of San Rafael, on behalf of the people of Paraguay. The role of the WLT will be to co-ordinate international fundraising to support the conservation of the region, as well as providing technical assistance on carbon sequestration and 'avoided deforestation' projects which are all part of the overall vision for the Reserve.



Left: Alberto Yanosky, Exec. Director of Guyra Paraguay (left) and John Burton, CEO of WLT speaking in Asuncion, on 11 March 2008, when the Minister of the Environment announced that the government was to co-manage 2.5-million acres for conservation in conjunction with Guyra Paraguay supported by WLT.

Message from Sir David Attenborough congratulating the Government of Paraguay on its decision to protect the Dry Chaco

"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. The Government of Paraguay is to be congratulated on recognising the international importance of its wild heritage. Not only is it vital to save the incredible biodiversity of the region but part of the land is also home to people who still live in the forests largely unaffected by the outside world. I think it is wonderful that the World Land Trust has been able to play such an important role in saving it for future generations and I hope the rest of the world will respond generously and support WLT as it raises funds for the long term protection of this vast wildlife paradise."

Sir David Attenborough, Patron, World Land Trust

Sir David Attenborough spent three months in Paraguay in 1958 on a Zoo Quest Expedition looking for armadillos. Armadillos are the only surviving relations of the Glyptodonts which became extinct about 10,000 years ago. Perhaps the strangest of the 20 species of armadillo is the Giant Armadillo (right) which can weigh up to 70 lb. They are found in a variety of habitats in Paraguay and are classified as Endangered.



Where Wet meets Dry and 'Giants' roam



Life in the Dry Chaco

"Route 9", the main road linking Paraguay to Bolivia, is asphalted for 700km from Asuncion and then it turns into a sandy track which is difficult to negotiate, even with a 4-wheel drive. This is the main reason that land is still cheap. But should the road be asphalted in the future, which is highly likely, prices will soar, as will the threat posed by GM biofuel and other crops.

The Dry Chaco is exceptionally rich in flora and fauna but it is a fragile habitat and once it has been degraded it can take centuries to recover. The Campo Iris reserve is known to contain Tapirs, rare Chaco Peccaries, Crowned Eagles, Pumas and Jaguars.

"This property was considered particularly important to protect as it contains one of the only semi-permanent lakes of the zone which, in periods of extreme drought, becomes an important wildlife refuge" explains José Luis (Pepe) Cartes, Programme Coordinator of WLT's Partners, Guyra Paraguay, adding "the international recognition for this unique habitat has helped to consolidate our dreams for its conservation."

There is no question that, as Pepe says above, the recognition of the WLT and other NGOs of the importance of the Dry Chaco was instrumental in the government of Paraguay's decision to back its protection. Before long we hope the whole of the Dry Chaco will be protected for its real owners: the Peccaries, Tapirs, Jaguars, birds, insects and reptiles.

Last Remnants of Atlantic Rainforest in Paraguay

In the heart of Paraguay's Atlantic Forest lies the San Rafael Reserve which protects a multitude of endangered and endemic species, with over 310 species of birds, including the rare Crested Eagle, and 40 species of mammal. WLT has assisted with land purchase in this reserve and is also funding tree planting and restoration through the Carbon Balanced programme.



Above: The Giant Anteater, together with the Giant Armadillo (see left) and the Giant Otter, were the inspiration behind the naming of the Three Giants Biological Station, as they all occur in the Chaco-Pantanal reserve. This anteater is using its sharp claws to open up a termite nest. They do not completely destroy the nest and often return many times to feed.

Pantanal Wetland Paradise

WLT's first land purchase funding in the Pantanal was made possible by a legacy from the late Sid Templer, and this was the start of our relationship with Paraguayan partners, Guyra Paraguay, and the birth of the Chaco-Pantanal Reserve. Since then WLT has funded the purchase of a network of adjacent plots and the reserve currently covers 27,000 acres (11,300 ha).

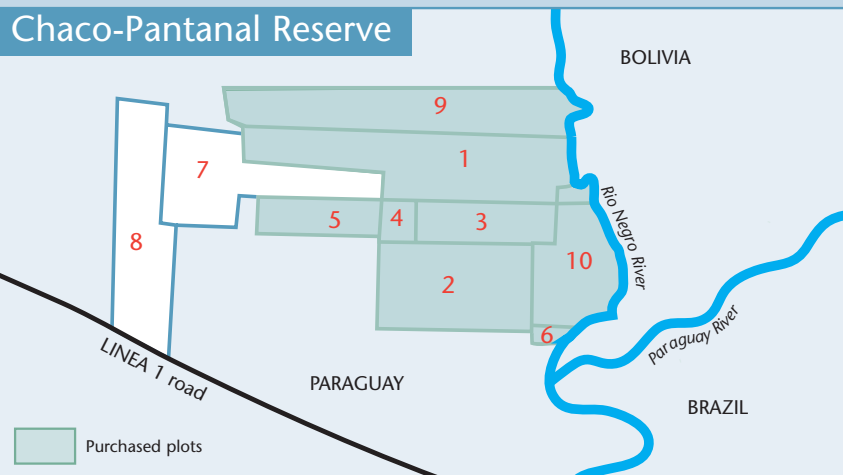
The map below shows the land purchases made possible by support through WLT, and we are indebted to donations from The Harper Family, The Finch Family, Albertino Abela, Kevin Cox,

Travel Republic and IUCN Netherlands, as well as all our individual supporters.

The Challenge

We now urgently need to secure Plots 7 and 8 to ensure the protection of this fantastic area. Plot 8 borders the main road and is an essential 'gateway' to the reserve. The map below shows plots already purchased which now form the Chaco-Pantanal Reserve.

Below: Funds are urgently needed for Plots 7 & 8, totalling 112,000 acres (45,000 ha). These plots are strategically important to the protection of the whole area. Please help us save the rest of this habitat before it is too late.



Just £25 saves Half an Acre for Giant Otters, Giant Anteaters and Giant Armadillos... and Jaguars

Brazil - Saving land in this 'biodiversity hotspot'

Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu



REGUA now protects nearly 14,000 acres (5,656 ha) of some of the last remnants of Atlantic Rainforest in northern Brazil. The project currently owns 6,365 acres (2,576 ha) and protects a further 5,000 acres (2,300 ha) belonging to Schincariol (see below) and 2,000 acres (870 ha) belonging to REGUA member, Carlos Lemgruber. Patrolling this area, planting thousands of seedlings, re-creating wetland habitats, reintroducing endangered species back into the wild, and running a Young Rangers programme are all in a day's work at REGUA.

The Atlantic Rainforest is internationally recognised as one of the highest priorities for conservation, and is one of the 8 most threatened 'biodiversity hotspots' in the world. Although less than 7% survives, it is estimated to have up to 8,000 endemic plant species and 600 endemic species of terrestrial vertebrates. WLT is working with REGUA to save as much as possible of what is left.

Rare primate seen at REGUA

Sightings of the critically endangered Woolly Spider Monkey, *Brachyteles arachnoides*, also known as the Muriqui, have occurred on a number of REGUA's trails, indicating that there are healthy populations of males, females and young.

The Muriqui is Brazil's largest endemic mammal species; its total range is now limited to fragments of Atlantic Rainforest and the world's total population is estimated to be no more than 1,000 individuals. They are very arboreal, rarely descending to the forest floor, and often feed by hanging from the branches of a tree with their prehensile tail.

Reforestation at REGUA

WLT is supporting reforestation at REGUA through the Carbon Balanced Programme, which includes planting all available low lying parcels of land to form a mosaic of differing habitats, thereby increasing species biodiversity and protection. REGUA invites everyone to see their habitat restoration in action and by doing so hopes to inspire other landowners to carry out similar projects to restore lost areas of the Atlantic Rainforest.

The Matumbo Gap - important land purchase

The current priority at REGUA is to purchase a number of strategically placed parcels of land to create a protected wildlife corridor which is known as the Matumbo Gap.

Nicholas Locke, Project Director of REGUA writes:

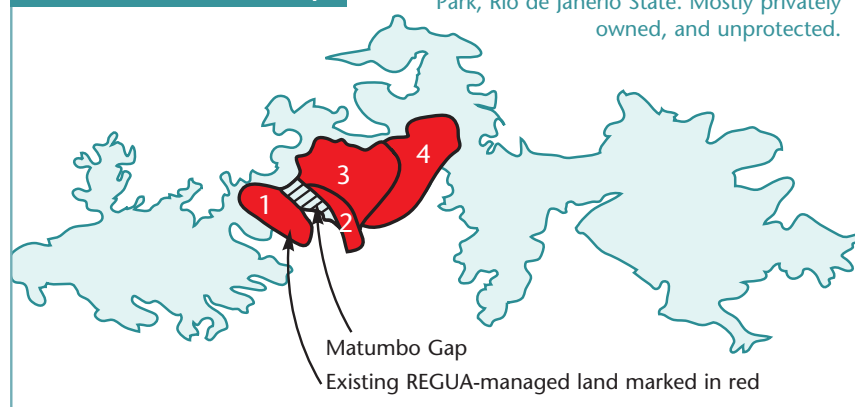
"REGUA recognized the strategic importance of the headwaters of the Matumbo River as it linked REGUA to our member, Mr Lemgruber's farm. It lay within the confines of Três Picos park yet was being used and frequently cut and sold to small property developers with

scant regard to conservation. We baptized these headwaters "The Matumbo Gap", an area of 1,122 acres (450 ha). REGUA identified 17 properties within the 'Gap', after mapping and clearing their boundaries. We started by walking each perimeter with a GPS in the company of their owners. Once these GPS limits were established we were able to make maps with all the 17 properties together.

So far 4 properties have been purchased and a price has been agreed for a further eight. Thanks to support through WLT, a further plot of 200 acres (79 ha) is currently being secured.

The Matumbo Gap

The outline shows Três Picos National Park, Rio de Janeiro State. Mostly privately owned, and unprotected.



Schincariol and REGUA: Partners in conservation



REGUA was established in 2001, with the help of WLT, to protect the upper Guapi Assu district and water catchment, which covers an area of 30,000 ha or 300km². Half this area is forested hillsides up to the Serra dos Orgões peaks, forming part of the Três Picos state park. In a bid to protect more forest REGUA invited two neighbouring land owners to become members: Schincariol and Carlos Lemgruber, in the belief that the success of any conservation project depends on social inclusion and local support.

Schincariol has had its factory here since 1939, using water from the

Guapi Assu catchment. They now command second place in Brazil's national market, producing over 30-billion litres of beer and 13-billion litres of other drinks. Schincariol has agreed that its 5,000 acres (2,500 ha) can be patrolled by REGUA staff, protecting an entire block and sending a clear conservation message of groups working together with mutual respect for the benefit of wildlife. Schincariol has also funded the refurbishment of REGUA's offices and given school books, pens and papers and backpacks for use by rangers and visiting school children: a valuable resource in a poor community.

Saving tropical forests with WLT will lock up valuable carbon and help off-set the damage caused by modern day living. See website: www.carbonbalanced.org

WLT's Carbon Balanced programme Highly-rated new website



The Carbon Balanced programme works alongside the Trust's land purchase projects with the same key objectives: biodiversity and endangered habitat protection. The restoration ecology team undertake two main activities; tree planting and carbon sequestration. Whether it is planting trees or providing carbon dioxide offsets this work will always be done with in-country conservation partner NGOs to protect biodiversity through the conservation and regeneration of habitats.

www.carbonbalanced.org

As well as giving clear information on this confusing subject, new personal carbon offset calculators are being developed so that you can easily calculate the emissions you are responsible for. You will find calculators for Lifestyle and Travel & Holiday and, if you're too busy to find your bills and work out your emissions in detail, there is also a Fixed Emissions offset

page for making quick calculations of your carbon footprint based on national averages.

Highly Rated by *Which?* Magazine

WLT's Carbon Balanced website was highly rated in *Which? Magazine* (April 2008), being awarded 5 out of 5 for easy use and for information on how funds are used. The only area where we lost a star was in not clearly stating how much of the offset cost actually goes to the field projects. For the record, the figure is 85% with the remainder for administration. Furthermore, as a charity, any surplus at the end of the year goes right back into conservation. Most other carbon offset companies and organisations were rated less highly, with lack of projects information and financial data being a common issue.

Cover Picture

Lou Jost, of WLT's Ecuadorian partners Fundación Ecominga, is not only a world class botanist he is also an excellent artist. The cover of this issue is taken from an original of one of his paintings of a Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan which is threatened by loss of habitat in Ecuador.



We thank Neblina Forest, an Ecuadorian travel company dedicated to conservation and sensitive nature tourism, who hold the copyright for this image, and have allowed us to use it free of charge for this purpose.

www.neblinaforest.com

The 'Ranch of Hopes' Wildlife Refuge in Patagonia: WLT reaffirms its commitments



Estancia La Esperanza (Ranch of Hopes) Wildlife Refuge is now an established conservation presence in a place swept by wind and challenge. Originally a privately owned sheep ranch, La Esperanza, protects over 15,000 acres of remote and dramatically sculpted landscape; it was purchased in 2000 by WLT partners, Fundación Patagonia Natural, with funds raised by WLT.

Since then FPN has worked to gain the support of its neighbours: the owners, managers and rural workers of the other estancias, by demonstrating that sheep ranching and wildlife conservation could be compatible. This has been successful, and a solid foundation of local support for the refuge has been established. Throughout the region sheep farming is economically tenuous, and there is evidence that the aging network of internal fences and corrals on the refuge are a deadly hazard to wildlife, especially young Guanacos.

Recognising the need to refocus on the conservation mission of the refuge, the next phase in the process is being considered: economic sustainability and long term conservation initiatives. I have

recently returned from a meeting with FPN where we were able to explore a strategy for the future. And several important decisions were taken, including an enthusiastic reaffirmation of the value of the partnership between FPN and WLT, and the Ranch of Hopes as a conservation success.

Perhaps the most dramatic decision, and the one with the most immediate impact, was to remove the sheep from the reserve and to clear all of the internal fencing and corrals as quickly as possible. This will allow absolutely unimpeded movement across the 15,000 acres for the wild Guanacos and other wildlife, which include Puma and Mara, and will provide an opportunity to pursue an integrated conservation development strategy unencumbered by the physical remnants and constraints of past activities.

Mark Gruin, WLT Special Projects

Below: Guanaco numbers have increased from around 50 individuals seven years ago, to over 700. But young Guanacos are getting caught in fencing and injured as a result. We urgently need to fund the removal of fencing and old corrals.



Funds are urgently needed for the ongoing restoration work being carried out on the Ranch of Hopes Wildlife Refuge. We need about £5,000 for a 3-month project to remove the fences and corrals. You can make a donation on the form enclosed.

WLT-US - different but with the same aim: saving more land for conservation



The headquarters of World Land Trust-US (WLT-US) is in a small town in New Hampshire, and this winter has seen record amounts of snowfall. At the height of the season, WLT-US staff gathered for a winter retreat to welcome new WLT-US board members and make plans for the year ahead. We were joined by Mark Gruin who is working with WLT in the UK and acting as liaison between our two organisations. On returning from a dinner in town, a sudden change to freezing rain turned a 15-minute trip into a two-hour rescue mission with crampons and snowshoes. Later, over hot drinks in front of a roaring fire, Mark observed that WLT-US offered unique bonding experiences.

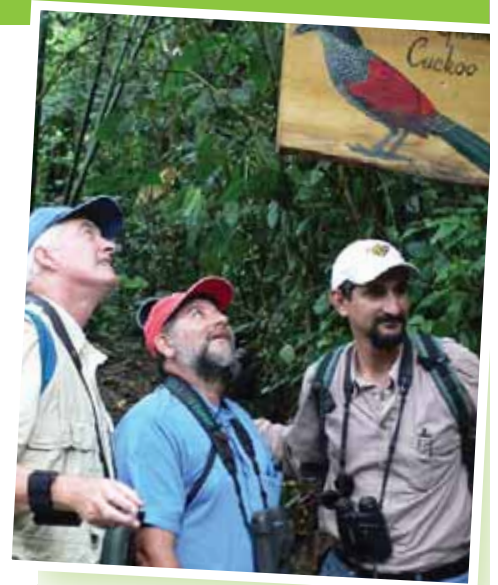
At the meeting we talked about the benefits for conservation of us all working together and how WLT and WLT-US have, with assistance from American Bird Conservancy, jointly purchased 1,750 acres of beautiful forest to add to the Río Canandé Reserve in N W Ecuador. Early this year, park guards building a trail in the reserve had a rare sighting of one of the birds the reserve was created to protect: the Banded Ground Cuckoo.

Robert Ridgely, Director of Conservation for WLT-US, visited the reserve in March, hoping to see this rare cuckoo. For Ridgely, who wrote the 2-volume *Birds of Ecuador* this would have been a 'life bird'.

After two days climbing furtively over the steep trail, occasionally playing the strange hoot and bill-clack of its call, there was no sign of the cuckoo. Later, asked about its earlier appearance, the park guard explained that he had been building the staircase with a couple of others, working all day cutting risers of wood, digging steps in the clay, and hammering in stakes when the cuckoo simply walked out of the forest into the trail and stayed a while to watch the proceedings.

The reserve protects a suite of rare and endemic birds in addition to the cuckoo, including the Great Green Macaw, Scarlet-breasted Tanager, and Great Curassow (spotted there in January by Ecuadorian ornithologist, Alejandro Solandro). It also provides habitat for Jaguars and other cats, monkeys, and amphibians, including especially high numbers of crystal frog species.

Richard Moore, Director of Operations



Above: Robert Ridgely (left), visiting Río Canandé in March, was hoping to catch a glimpse of the Banded Ground Cuckoo but had to make do with the painted sign in the reserve instead. He is joined in this photograph by park guard, Galo Velez, (centre) and Francisco Sorroza, Exec. Director of Fundación Jocotoco.

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



Edinburgh Academy Students Rise to the Challenge

The Edinburgh Academy, a co-educational independent school in Edinburgh, has chosen the World Land Trust as its Charity of the Year. Victoria Pinion, Student Chair of the Charities Committee said:

"As an ECO school with a long standing interest in environmental issues, we wanted to select a charity that was making a real difference to the environment and wildlife whilst supporting the local community. The WLT does all this and we are delighted to support them".

The Academy's target is to raise a minimum of £10,000 by the end of this school year through various fund raising events. So far, over £6,000 has been secured following events including a highly successful Christmas Fair, concert, own clothes day, a sponsored chest waxing event and frugal lunches, where traditional lunches were replaced by a sandwich and bowl of soup.

Some students also hope to visit the areas that their donations have helped save - to see the forests for themselves.

If you are a teacher or home educator, or a student who would like more information WLT now has an Education Officer, Kelly Jacobs, and she would love to hear from you.

A range of educational materials are available and if you want to raise funds so much the better. You can contact Kelly by emailing: Kjacobs@worldlandtrust.org or Tel: 01986 874 422

www.worldlandtrust.org

Dear WLT: "Why the emphasis on South America", "Why aren't you helping Orangutans", "I'm increasingly worried about 'green' publicity that businesses are gaining" and "At what cost Computers?" John Burton, WLT Chief Executive replies

Why the emphasis on South America?

I am very pleased to have found the World Land Trust. I hadn't supported wildlife charities in the past because I couldn't see how they were helping stop the destruction of the planet. But I've just made a donation to WLT and feel for the first time that my donation might really do some good. I will be making more donations when I can. But one question: why the emphasis on South America? It seems to me that other parts of the world are just as threatened?

Gillian Lambert, Bedford

And why aren't you saving Orangutans?

I read with interest the letter and your reply on Palm Oil Threats to the Rainforest (WLT News Autumn 2007). The reply was helpful

but it still doesn't explain why the World Land Trust isn't doing anything to help the plight of Orangutans in S E Asia. Surely this should be a priority?

Jack Curry, Folkestone

In answer to both these questions, there is the overriding issue, and that is availability of funds. The WLT's annual budget has gone from around £400,000 a few years ago, and is expected to pass £2-million this year — but we still need more if we are to expand into the suggested areas.

In South America we are able to achieve real, long term results, saving land and all its wildlife, while it is still relatively cheap. We also have excellent project partners in whom we have total trust.

The Trust has been looking long and hard at trying to do something in Africa, but the problem has been that there are very few stable NGOs with which to work, and land tenure is often far from

straightforward. However, we are considering a project in Kenya, and also Madagascar. We have projects in India and Lebanon, and as we go to press, our Conservation Programmes Manager, Kirsty Burgess, is about to leave for a field visit to Borneo, where she will meet with local NGOs to investigate the possibility of land purchase that will help Orangutans. We do recognise it as a high priority, but the problem is that the land prices are very high and we would need to be convinced of the long term security of any reserve that was ultimately created.

"Good luck with the fundraising. I think you have a very good balance of information, interest and support to your donors without being even faintly irritating - a wonderful achievement."

Allan Watson, London N19

A WLT Partner poses two questions:

"I am increasingly worried about the disproportionate amount of "green" publicity that businesses are gaining from donations to conservation charities: The "Add More Green" (Allied Irish Bank feature in WLT News, Autumn 2007). Basically all they are doing is asking their customers to save the bank money by going online and getting good PR out of it as well!

"The other thing that worries me is the move to seemingly become totally reliant on computers. When working properly they undoubtedly do save money, but at what environmental cost when you consider the manufacture, disposal, constant new equipment to keep updated etc. etc.? And when not working properly (which from my limited experience NHS, charities, friends, seems quite often) they incur a double cost and an infuriating blank response! I am sure that, when taken as a whole the

environmental costs must be greater than the properly managed manufacture of paper. Perhaps I am totally wrong and am just being an ostrich as regards computers. Anyway keep up the good work."

Mr R Hamar, Plymouth
(WLT Partner 3712)

These are justified concerns, which, in an ideal world, it would be good to confront. Unfortunately it isn't possible to turn the clock back. At WLT we take the attitude that if we are going to be effective in saving the last wild areas on the planet we must be pragmatic, and work within the constraints of the modern world.

I am frequently asked about the pros and cons of accepting corporate donations for the reasons you have given. Our belief, and it isn't merely a justification, is that if we can work together with the decision-makers within

companies to raise funds for land purchase, and reach their employees, as well as the general public, we can save land and raise a great deal of awareness at the same time. Funds provided by our corporate sponsors are matching individual donations and enabling us to save habitats while they still exist.

We could campaign, we could try and avoid using computers, but it is my personal belief that the crisis is so imminent that the priority must be to save what we can while we can. As Sir David Attenborough, myself and others have said, the root of the problem is too many people all trying to live an unsustainable lifestyle. But campaigning on this topic is not what the WLT was set up for. By DOING SOMETHING, by saving critical pieces of land, we believe that will be our lasting legacy.

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

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

Lou Jost, of WLT Ecuadorian Partners, Fundación Ecominga, presents Sir David Attenborough with a newly discovered tree



In January when launching wildlifefocus.org website (see Page 3) Sir David was presented with the photograph of a flower of a beautiful tree species new to science, which is to be named in his honour. It was discovered by botanist Lou Jost in the newly purchased Cerro Candelaria Reserve.

Lou Jost, from Fundación EcoMinga, gave an illustrated talk at the launch, and explained how he found the tree on a recent exploration of the reserve, when he was accompanied by WLT's Jack Astbury and Andy Orchard of Puro Coffee, who were in Ecuador setting up the webcam.

WLT is raising funds for the Candelaria Reserve which is protecting a narrow band of forest connecting the Sangay and Los Llanganates National Parks in central Ecuador. So far 5,691 acres (2,303 ha) have been purchased with support from WLT.

WLT Competition

First prize: Organic Goody Bag, see below

Spot the **20 different species of birds**. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Circle or highlight your answers and send original (or photocopy) with your name and address to:

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

Entries to be received by 12 August 2008

First Prize: A WLT Goody Bag

Our Goody Bag, a WLT organic cotton 'Bag for Life' will contain:
 Brandstand Chocolate: large bar of **Organic Meltdown** chocolate; **Puro Coffee**: Fair Trade beans; Longcroft Soap: '**Lula in the Rainforest**' handmade soap, LoveHoney: **bubble bath and candles**, Let's Buy the Rainforest: **1,000 square feet of Rainforest** enamel pin, Guyra Paraguay: **cotton bandana**.
Thanks to our sponsors for providing the gifts.

The winner of the WLT News Autumn 2007 competition was Jenny Davis from Gulval, Penzance.

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Win a week's holiday in Ecuador

To celebrate the launch of the Webcam in the Forest we are offering a fantastic prize of a week's accommodation in Ecuador, at the Umbrella Bird Lodge in the Buenaventura Reserve. The prize will be awarded to the first person who discovers a new species of hummingbird whilst watching the webcam. All you have to do if you think you have spotted the 33rd hummingbird species to visit the feeder, is freeze frame the footage. Full details on website: www.wildlifefocus.org



Photo credits: Cover: Lou Jost/Nebolina Forest; Page 3: (top) WLT, (rest on page) Ellie Kurttz; Page 4: (centre two) Renton Righelato, (below) Nigel Simpson; Page 5: (top three) Fundacion Jocotoco, (below) Elephant Family; Page 6: WLT; Page 7: Pete Oxford/naturepl.com; Page 9: WLT; Page 10 (top) WLT-US, (below) Edinburgh Academy; Back page: (top) Ellie Kurttz, (centre) Puro Coffee, (right) WLT.

LAST WORD - new species



While we apologise for the 'snapshot' quality of this picture it shows two Chaco Peccaries which have only rarely been photographed in the wild; it was taken by John Burton in the Dry Chaco of Paraguay. When Sir David Attenborough visited the Dry Chaco fifty years ago this animal had yet to be described.