



WORLD  
LAND  
TRUST

news

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# editorial

by Rohini Finch,

WLT Chair of Trustees



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Above: Rohini Finch with John Burton (WLT CEO) on a recent field trip to India. This photo was taken in Corbett National Park, north-east India, where WLT is looking at potential wildlife corridors for funding.

On a tour of Ecuador in 1994 I fell in love with the rainforest, I fell in love with the Galapagos Islands, and for the first time I learnt to really appreciate the delicate nature of ecosystems. This gave me a passion that has never left me. It made me want to play a more active role in conservation, and eventually it led me to the World Land Trust.

On my return from Ecuador I started looking for an organisation to support, one that would allow me to really get involved and know where my money was being spent. After researching all the conservation charities I could find I was attracted to the World Land Trust because it convinced me that the funds I donated would not be squandered on overheads. I firmly believed that my donations would go directly to conservation, addressing issues on the ground with respected local organisations and I have not been disappointed. The WLT prides itself on being proactive and responsive, choosing excellent overseas partners with whom to work, and I believe that their strategy of buying land is the best means of conserving it.

*"Seeing conservation in action and listening to WLT's project partners talking gave me a great deal of passion for the Trust's work."*

Rohini Finch

I then became involved with WLT as a supporter, funding a land purchase in the Pantanal region of north-eastern Paraguay and following this John Burton (WLT's CEO) encouraged me to visit the Pantanal project for myself. This field visit served to fuel my passion even further. However, what we saw was also horrifying. Witnessing the huge swathes of deforestation in the Pantanal really moved me to encourage my friends and family to support the Trust's efforts and get involved themselves.

In 2008 I became a WLT Trustee and in 2010 I was delighted to be appointed its Chairman, giving me the opportunity for even greater involvement. In December last year I went on my first site visit in my official capacity, this time to

discover more about our projects in India.

I had known that animal-human conflict is a huge problem throughout India, causing serious injury and all too often loss of life. So I wanted to see for myself what our partners, Wildlife Trust of India, are doing to secure corridors of land that connect one protected area with another, to enable India's wildlife, not solely Elephants, freedom to roam. It was a wonderful experience to visit a village that had been relocated away from its original site within an Elephant migration route where their crops had been regularly trampled and they had been fearful for their family's safety. I very much enjoyed meeting the villagers, seeing the houses that had been built for them, their gardens bursting with fruit and their crops doing well. This relocation really demonstrated a win-win situation.

My passion for conservation will not leave me, but there is nothing like a site visit to rekindle the passion. The WLT is involved in so many truly inspiring conservation initiatives with some of the most dedicated conservationists in the world, the choice of where to go for my next site visit will be a very difficult decision indeed.

[www.worldlandtrust.org](http://www.worldlandtrust.org)

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# Buy an Acre projects 2011

Where can you buy an acre of threatened habitat for just £100, saving its wildlife forever?

Answer: Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico



The Buy an Acre fund has been exceptionally successful since WLT introduced it in 1989. These are *Real Acres in Real Places* and the reserves that have, and are, being created through funds raised are protected by local NGOs, can be found on maps and can even be visited.

We have four new priority areas for Buy an Acre funds in 2011 and, although the price of land has risen astronomically, we can still save One Acre for you for £100 (or Quarter of an Acre for £25).

These new project areas have been chosen by the Trust based on their importance for rare and endemic species, and the level of threat, as well as the cost of the land being relatively low and stable. They offer wonderful conservation opportunities and we will enjoy bringing you images of the huge wealth of wildlife that you are helping to protect.

## WLT's Buy an Acre Partners:

- NCI: Ecuador
- FUNDAECO: Guatemala
- GESG: Mexico
- ProAves: Colombia



## Colombia



**Above:** *The Golden Poison Frog, Phyllobates terribilis, is only found on the Pacific coast of Colombia. This species is on the edge of extinction through the loss of its Chocó rainforest habitat. See page 4.*

WLT is working with ProAves to protect threatened Chocó Forests which support some of the greatest concentrations of endemic birds, butterflies, amphibian and orchids in the world. There is a surge of development in Colombia as it becomes more politically stable, leading to new roads and housing. It is vital that we save buffer zones and corridors to protect forests from being logged and becoming fragmented. See page 4.

## Ecuador

WLT has been committed to helping save some of Ecuador's unique habitats for several years. In a country where 80 per cent of the rainforest has already been destroyed it is vital to save as much as possible to ensure that endemic species are not allowed to become extinct.

WLT now has four project partners in Ecuador: Fundación Jocotoco, Fundación EcoMinga, Fundación Pro-Bosque and, more recently, Nature & Culture International (NCI).

Five of the eight Fundación Jocotoco reserves and both the Cerro Candelaria and Rio Zunac Reserves, owned by Fundación EcoMinga, have been funded by WLT. Carbon-balanced funding is supporting Fundación Pro-Bosque and new Buy an Acre land purchase challenges are currently being agreed with NCI.

Lack of water is an escalating problem in the south of Ecuador, having a detrimental effect on the finely balanced ecosystems of the region and the local population. Projects with NCI will protect these important watersheds.

## Mexico

Mexico is one of the most mega-diverse areas in the world. The mountainous terrain of the Sierra Gorda reserve in central Mexico, surrounded on the west by the semi-desert and on the east by tropical forests, is the most ecologically diverse area in the country.

WLT has already funded land purchase through Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda (GESG) and so far 1,800 acres (720 ha) of threatened habitat has been protected. See page 5.

## Guatemala

The Laguna Grande Reserve in Guatemala was chosen by WLT as a funding priority because it protects a range of fragile habitats along the Belizean-Guatemalan border. Working with our partners in Guatemala, FUNDAECO, we are helping protect 1,577 acres (671 ha) of lagoons, mangroves and tropical forests that stretch from sea level up to 350m high mountains.

Where land costs more than £100 an Acre WLT launches Special Appeals  
You can also help save Orang-utan forests in Borneo, Elephant Corridors in India and Grasslands in Kenya

# Buy an Acre projects

Highlighting Colombia - some very good reasons to get involved



## Where is the Chocó Rainforest?

Extending from Panama, through Colombia to Northern Ecuador, the Chocó is one of the last coastal tropical forests surviving today and is considered one of the world's 34 global biodiversity hotspots. Collectively these hotspots contain more than half the planet's plant species and 77 per cent of all terrestrial vertebrate species, in just 2.3 per cent of the earth's surface.

Las Tangaras reserve and project area is one of the most diverse and important rainforest sites on earth. It aims to protect rainforest from 200 to 12,900 feet above sea level. It also protects the watershed of the Rio Atrato which is the Chocó's most important river providing fresh water for tens of thousands of inhabitants living in poor rural communities.

## Cover picture



**With nearly 1,900 species of bird, Colombia has more bird species than any other country in the world**

There are 72 endemic species including the Gold-ringed Tanager (*inset*). This particular bird is only known from three locations in the Chocó rainforest and is Endangered due to habitat loss and threats for the future include proposed road construction as Colombia develops its infrastructure. WLT has formed a partnership with ProAves in Colombia, to protect as much of the vital Chocó habitat as possible. A priority is to buy road frontages as roads are currently being widened and paved and this will inevitably bring investors and businesses to the region looking for roadside properties to develop.

Above: The Chocó rainforests of Colombia are one of the richest areas in the world for endemic species. The photograph above was taken in the Las Tangaras area of north western Colombia - perhaps one of the least known rainforests on earth. WLT-US has been treating this region as a priority to save and has raised the funds to purchase and protect a vital 5,500 acres of the rainforest that protects over 82,000 additional acres. A study in these lowland rainforests and highland cloud forests, in September 2010, uncovered a wealth of amphibians, butterflies, plant and bird species, in just a few days. Indications are that the region could hold one of the most important concentrations of species new to science left in the world.

The background image was taken in the Las Tangaras rainforest and the bird is an Indigo Flowerpiercer. Flowerpiercers have a hooked bill which they use to pierce the base of flowers to feed on nectar. The frog is a Chocó Tree Frog. Colombia is considered to be the most important country in the world for amphibian species and in September 2010 a group of scientists discovered three amphibian species considered new to science.

## Win!

A copy of *Field Guide to the Birds of Colombia*. See review on page 11 and competition on back page.



In Mexico, the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve protects a biological melting pot unmatched on the North American continent

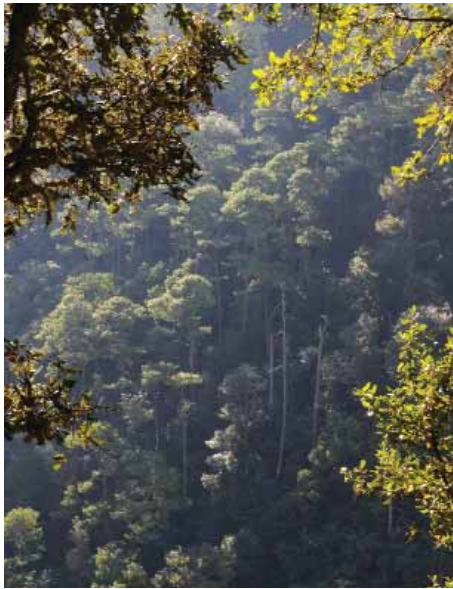


**Left:** The Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, coloured green. Within the Reserve, 11 'Core Zones' totalling 61,290 acres (24,803 ha) have been designated by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) for their biodiversity and intact habitat. These areas are marked in light green on the map. Despite these designations, some of the land within the Core Zones is privately owned and under threat from cattle ranching, agriculture and hunting.

**Meet Me at the Oasis**  
*"In the face of forces destroying other parts of Mexico, the Sierra Gorda reserve holds its own - a miraculous, biological melting pot unmatched on the North American continent. Black Bears mingle with Jaguars and macaws, and stands of tropical trees, draped with orchids, about hills dotted with cactus."*  
 Scott Weidensaul,  
 Naturalist and author writing in Audubon Magazine

The mountainous terrain of the Sierra Gorda reserve is the most ecologically diverse area in the country. This is even more impressive as Mexico is considered to be one of the most mega-diverse countries in the world.

Roberto Pedraza, Technical Director of WLT's project partners, Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG) explains that the Biosphere reserve "goes from the southern tip of the Chihuahuan Desert on the western slope, and tropical evergreen forest with Ceiba trees and breadnuts on the eastern slope, up to 3,100 meters [10,170 feet] along the crest of Sierra Madre, with trees like Douglas-firs and aspens that are found in the Rockies. There are oak-pine forests, tropical dry forest, semi-desert scrub. There are 650 species of moths and butterflies, 2,308 species of plants, 329 species of birds - nearly a third of all the kinds of birds found in Mexico."



**Above Right:** Oak-pine forest, one of the many different habitats vital for the abundance of wildlife protected by Sierra Gorda.

**Right:** Roberto Pedraza with a huge cactus he discovered recently on the reserve. Known locally as 'Queen of the Barrel' (Echinocactus platyacanthus), it is endemic to central Mexico. This specimen, standing at almost three metres, is possibly the largest cactus recorded in Mexico.

**Agave & Hummingbirds**



The Agave grows in abundance on the Sierra Gorda reserve area and is recognisable by its large yellow flowers. This plant has been important in Mexico since pre-Hispanic times; its leaves being used for roofing and its fibres for weaving and rope making. Nowadays its main use is in alcoholic drinks such as tequila.

*Above: The White-eared Hummingbird was one of 24 hummingbirds, of four different species, photographed by Roberto Pedraza on this one plant on one day.*

**BUY AN ACRE:**  
**current land purchase in Mexico**  
**Name of property: El JAGÜEYCITO**  
**Location:** in the Core Zone "Barranca de Paguas" on the south side of the Santa Maria River, north east of the Reserve.

The area has been chosen for its very high biodiversity with oak forests at higher elevation and tropical sub-deciduous forest in the lowlands. Endangered species present include Ocelot, Jaguar and Puma, as well as Great Curassows.

# Special Appeal: Addressing urgent animal-human conflict in India



**Above right:** WLT has helped save Elephant corridors in Kerala and in Meghalaya. Over recent months we have been looking at a range of urgently needed corridors linking to Corbett and Rajaji National Parks.

**Left:** Always an uncomfortable situation, for both the Elephant and humans. India's expanding population, and its associated roads and traffic, means that there is increasing conflict in areas where Elephants use traditional migration routes.

India's economic development and rapid population increase comes at a price: both for humans and wildlife.

In the last 100 years, India's population density has climbed from 77 people per sq km to 325 people. This, coupled with the development of once rural areas for industry, means that thousands of people are moving into areas that were previously wilderness, where the Elephant and the Tiger ruled. Settlers in new areas are often alarmed to find that they are living bang in the middle of traditional migratory routes for wild animals, putting them in the direct path of conflict. Wildlife Trust of India works closely with local communities to relocate them to safer areas, ensuring that all the villagers want to move and that their new site has the facilities they need. But this work takes time, patience and money.



**Top predators: Tigers only have one real threat to their lives - humans.**

Tigers also need to move over large areas and are finding themselves living alongside some of the densest and fastest growing human populations in the world. Without their habitats Tigers cannot survive and, in an effort to save them in an increasingly human dominated landscape, it is vital that land is set aside for them away from humans. They need safe passages to move between protected core areas, and nowhere more so than around Jim Corbett National Park, which is famous for its Tigers, Leopards and Elephants but, over the past few months, five people have lost their lives in Tiger conflicts near to the National Park.

## Halting extinctions Saving human lives

WLT is working with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) on a project in the Corbett National Park, in Uttarakhand state, where the Tiger-human crisis is severe with lives having been lost over recent months. Although only in its initial stages, the project has great conservation value as it would extend the Corbett Tiger reserve and provide refuge for Elephants, Sambar (deer), Indian Marsh Crocodile, and over 575 species of birds. Recent tragedies have shown that conflict is extremely serious in the area and this project will move the local people out of harm's way.

## Sunil Kyarong, Wildlife Trust of India's Co-ordinator of their Wild Lands programme, explains about Bear cub rescue.

"WTI initiated a project to rescue Asiatic Black Bear cubs about six years ago. Sometimes adults are killed for their skin for making bags or sword sheaths, the meat is eaten and their bile is used to make anti-malaria drugs.

"The cubs are very cute so people may keep them as pets, until they become a nuisance and they call WTI for help. We used to simply take them to the zoo to be looked after, but really we wanted to see them return to the wild. So we set-up a project to find out if it was possible.

"We walk the cubs into the forest for three to four months, then radio collar them so we can monitor their survival, and finally release them into their natural habitat.

"When we set-up the project all the eyes' of India were on us, as it was the first of its kind in the country. I'm very happy it's been such a success."

**This is a great outcome for bears who had little future otherwise but having protected land is key.**

Why it is important for India's large mammals to be able to roam

John Burton, WLT CEO, accompanies a group of WLT supporters on a field trip to India to see Elephant corridors in action



Sunil Kyarong, Wild Lands Co-ordinator for WTI, was in the UK in January on a study tour. While in the WLT office he talked with Bethan John, WLT Assistant Editor.

The healthiest Tiger populations in India are in the north-eastern states, where Sunil works and where WLT funded the first Elephant corridor. The corridor now links the Siju Wildlife Reserve and the Rewak Reserve Forest, providing a lifeline for Tigers, Elephants, Clouded Leopards and Himalayan Black Bears, to roam freely.

Sunil explained why giving Tigers space to roam is so critical, saying *"Tiger populations are getting isolated so they start inbreeding and their genetic pool becomes reduced. There is also a high level of territorial in-fighting, and if they stray into villages in search of food there is a chance that they will be poisoned. In a place like India, 1,400 Tigers are not enough; if a natural epidemic spreads it would wipe out the entire population. The size of the land isn't the most important thing, but animals need to be able to flow from one protected area to another."*

*"Without land acquisition you will never recover the species. And once they're gone, they are gone forever."*

Sunil has worked for WTI for 11 years and has vast experience of on-the-ground conservation work. He explained how the WLT and WTI are working together to help tackle animal-human conflict: *"We are buying the land, we are creating corridors, we are saving habitats. It is this that will save the species and end the conflict. It may be expensive and it takes time, but without land acquisition you will never recover the species."*



December 2010. Standing in the Elephant corridor in Kerala.

Left to right: Rohini Finch (WLT Chairman), Katherine Poulton (Director of The North Circular), Dominic Jones (jewellery designer), John Burton (WLT CEO)\*, Emma Beckett (PR for WLT), Anna Haber (representing corporate supporters, Gemfields) Dr Sandeep Tiwari (WTI), Lily Cole (model/actress), and Ram Kumar (WTI Field Officer).

\* John Burton is holding a lump of Elephant dung which he had picked up in the corridor.

In May 2010, WLT organised the highly successful *Emeralds for Elephants* event that raised £80,000 for Elephants. Several of the supporters involved in this event were so enthused that they wanted to meet with colleagues at Wildlife Trust of India and see the corridors for themselves. The group left London on a snowy day last December.

They began their journey in the southern state of Kerala where WTI is completing the protection of the Tirunelli-Kudrakote Corridor. The area is home to India's largest Elephant population, as well as many other Endangered species such as the Tiger and Gaur (Indian Bison). (They saw Elephants and Guar but not Tiger).

Originally there were five villages living in the corridor and by October 2010, four out of the five villages had been successfully relocated leaving just the fifth village to be relocated. The group met the villagers and were invited into their newly built homes.

Lily Cole commented: *"It was evident how happy they were now they owned their own land to live and farm on. One older man told us how glad he was to be able to sleep with his family at night again. Previously he had to keep watch through the nights in case Elephants came through."*

The group then travelled up to the north-east to Corbett National Park, to look at the site of proposed corridors. One of the highlights in Corbett is wildlife spotting

on Elephant-back; the park has about a dozen Elephants that have been rescued from their previous existence as tourist attractions or 'street' Elephants in cities. WTI is campaigning to ban all captive Elephants in India, and the ones they rescue are released into National Parks, working only to take occasional visitors into the park. John Burton said: *"It was really nice to see these rescued Elephants wandering freely in the park and enjoying a great retirement."*

Everyone in the group returned to the UK with a better understanding of how WLT and WTI sets out to achieve their goals by working together.

*"I really admire WLT's approach to land conservation whereby they themselves do not own any of the land outright in deed, but rather enable local partner's to buy up land for protection and conservation."*

Lily Cole, January 2011

Lily wrote about her trip to India and visiting WLT/WTI projects for the 17 February issue of *New Scientist* magazine. The Trust encourages supporters to become actively involved and if possible to visit one of WLT's project sites to see first-hand what is being achieved.

As well as securing corridors, the WLT's Ecosystem Services team is investigating potential for a carbon project to deliver carbon offsets, while helping to protect India's natural resources and eco-systems.

# Special Appeals

Saving threatened habitat where land costs more than £100 an acre:  
Borneo & Kenya



## Borneo, one of the world's 34 Global Hotspots for biodiversity



**Left:** Orang-utans feed mainly on fruits and seeds as well as young leaves, bark, flowers, insects and bird's eggs. A favourite is the flesh of the Durian fruit, which is supposed to taste something like sweet, cheesy, garlic custard.



## Saving habitats for 'Our' Birds that depend on Kenya's grassland

World Land Trust was 'born' in 1989 to save tropical forests in Belize. At that time Jerry Bertrand, now WLT's Honorary President, convinced his board at Massachusetts Audubon Society that the birds New Englanders believed were 'their birds' actually spent eight months of the year in tropical forests of Central and South America. Programme for Belize was established in an urgent bid to save 110,000 acres of tropical forest, about to be logged for agriculture, to save vital habitat for migratory birds, as well as endemic wildlife.

That is history but it is repeating itself in the Kinangop Highlands of Kenya, where the endemic Sharpe's Longclaw has what is believed to be its global stronghold. Its tussock grassland is being lost but the question has been asked: "why save a whole habitat for the benefit of one species?" But that isn't the case, these grasslands are of vital importance to migratory birds, some of them being ones that we look for every Spring, not really knowing where they have been all winter.

The grasslands and savannah of sub-Saharan Africa are a short-term home for millions of European migrant birds that fly south from Europe every Autumn as the weather gets colder. Over 180 Palearctic land-bird species migrate south across the Mediterranean and vast Sahara desert to feed on the flush of food stimulated by the rainy season south of the Sahara.

## Recorded on the Kinangop Grasslands

Swallows, Swifts and House Martins. Hobby and Willow Warblers. Northern Wheatears, Tree Pipits and Quail (the latter being Europe's only migratory game bird).

## Saving habitat for Orang-utans

WLT's Orang-utan Special Appeal has so far raised enough funds to purchase and protect 222 acres (90 ha) of tropical forests to provide a corridor to link together two sections of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, enabling protection and long term survival for over 600 Orang-utans.

We are currently working with our partners, LEAP Spiral and HUTAN, to purchase a second critical parcel for Orang-utans, and other endemic wildlife, to halt further destruction for oil palm plantations.

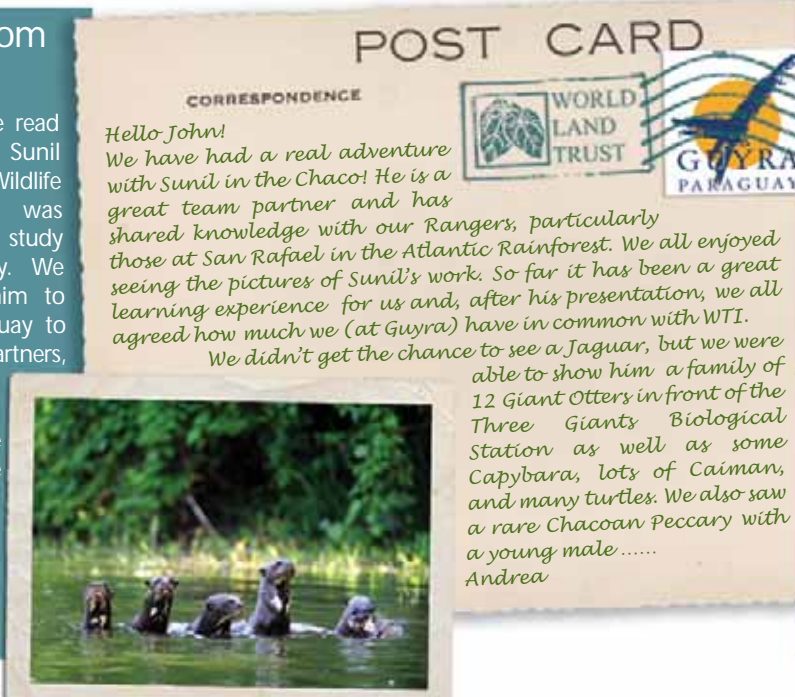
Estimates are that by 2020, only 32.6% of Borneo's forests will remain and many of the island's 'flagship' species could be threatened with extinction. The 'old world' rainforests of Borneo are

known to be some of the richest in the world and home to a great diversity of species, such as the Bornean Orang-utan, the Sumatran Rhinoceros, Bornean Pygmy Elephant, Malayan Sun-bear and the Bornean Clouded Leopard. Borneo's biodiversity includes:

- 15,000 plant species. Over 60% of plants found in Borneo are endemic to the island, and 361 new species to science have been discovered in recent times 52 of which were discovered in 2005 & 2006;
- 220 mammal species;
- Over 434 species of breeding birds out of a total of 622 species recorded;
- 250 species of reptiles & amphibians.

## Postcard from Paraguay

As you will have read on page 7, Sunil Kyarong, from Wildlife Trust of India, was in the UK on a study tour in January. We organised for him to go on to Paraguay to meet with our partners, Guyra Paraguay, Andrea Ferreira, Assistant to the Executive Office at Guyra Paraguay, sent this email to WLT CEO, John Burton, on 17 February.



# Keepers of the Wild: safeguarding the wilderness you have helped save forever



WLT has helped save over 500,000 acres for wildlife and in 2011 we are raising funds to ensure that there are enough rangers in the field to help our project partners adequately protect the reserves that have been created.

Employing a Ranger for one year costs on average £5,000, making a huge difference to on-the-ground conservation and protection.

## Who are the Rangers?

The rangers employed are usually members of the local community and some were once hunters. This may seem a strange decision but because of their knowledge of the rainforest they can make excellent bird guides and invariably turn into some of the best ambassadors for conservation within their local community. Some of the Rangers have started out as 'young rangers' - volunteering on the reserve while they were still at school. This is an excellent way to recruit paid rangers and they are often keen to get other youngsters involved and help organise and co-ordinate their own Eco-clubs.

## From the field in Ecuador



Head Ranger with Fundacion EcoMinga, Luis Recalde, took this photograph

recently with a basic point-and-shoot camera. It shows a rare Linne's Two-toed Sloth in the rainforest canopy of EcoMinga's Rio Zunac reserve in central Ecuador.

Luis has become an accomplished photographer and has recorded species new to science, one being featured in BBC Wildlife magazine.



## Meet the Keepers of the Wild, funded to protect the overseas partner reserves. From the field ... Armenia and Ecuador ...

**Name:** Manuk Manukyan  
**Partner Organisation:** Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife & Cultural Assets (FPWC)  
**Job:** Nature Guide and field worker; Co-ordinator of Eco-club  
**Birth date:** 1977  
**Place of Birth:** Vedi, Ararat, Armenia



has been a vital member of the FPWC team since 2001.

In 1992, Manuk moved to Urtsadzor village in the Ararat province, and in 2004 he graduated with a BA from the Institute of Biotechnology of Armenian Agricultural Academy as a vet.

From 2000 to 2006, Manuk worked with Dr Martin Adamyany and filmmaker/biologist Hrach Ghazaryan, researching the wealth of birds in Armenia. He was also a member of the creative team for 30 wildlife movie-series produced by FPWC. Since 2000, he has been photographing the wildlife of Armenia and

From 2004 to 2006, he also worked in the Armenian State Museum of Nature as a professional taxidermist.

Manuk is one of the most experienced nature guides in Armenia and currently works in the field for the FPWC buffer zone project. He is also the coordinator of the SunChild Eco-club in Urtsadzor, the community which is the cooperation partner in the buffer zone reserve project.

**Above:** Poaching of the endangered Bezoar (Armenia Wild Goat) is rife and Manuk keeps constant watch over the hills for hunters.



**Name:** José Marcelino Acaro Manchay  
**Partner Organisation:** Nature and Culture International (NCI)  
**Job:** Laipuna Reserve Ranger  
**Birth date:** 25 September 1973  
**Place of Birth:** Larama, Macará County, Loja, Ecuador

José grew up in rural southwestern Ecuador near NCI's Laipuna Reserve, and has been working for NCI since July 2002. Throughout this period Jose has attended many training and capacity building events relating to community development, tourism and reserve trail maintenance. The experience he has gained over the years, combined with close to a decade of service within the Laipuna Reserve, makes him a very important staff member. He has developed outstanding leadership skills and is well-respected among local community members.

José has gone on to become a key player in working with the neighboring community of Numbiaranga. He has helped build up an excellent relationship with NCI making it possible to work together to achieve conservation goals and social activities. This is helping convince local people that we should not only protect the Laipuna Reserve itself, but also conserve areas beyond the reserve's boundaries.

**Above:** In the photograph José works on an educational project with local children collecting seeds and identifying them.

You can fund a Ranger on our website: [www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/current-projects.htm](http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/current-projects.htm)  
Or make a telephone donation using a credit card. Call the WLT office: 01986 874 422

# Carbon Balanced programme

## Protecting the planet's 'ecological services'



All the land purchased by our partners, with support from funds raised through our Carbon Balanced programme, is of critical importance to threatened wildlife. These habitats also supply a range of ecosystem services that are vital to both wildlife and local people - from supplying clean water to regulating climate.

### What exactly are Ecological Services?

#### Things that nature does for us for free . . .

Examples of 'ecological services' include clean air, and abundant fresh water, as well as purification of air and water, protection of biodiversity, decomposition of wastes, soil and vegetation generation and renewal, pollination of crops and natural vegetation, groundwater supplies through wetlands, seed dispersal, greenhouse gas mitigation, and aesthetically pleasing landscapes. The concern hinges on the fact that we are losing them at an unsustainable rate, and one way of addressing these issues is through land purchase and protection. Nature reserves are vitally important as lands that are developed and converted from their natural state lose their ecological functions. Therefore, ecological services provided by privately held lands become increasingly important.

### Watershed Protection

You will notice increased mention throughout WLT literature, and on our website, of the important role that land purchase protection has in ensuring clean drinking water for communities close by.

Many WLT sites protect water supplies. For instance Fundación Jocotoco's Yanacocha Reserve protects a crucial watershed for the city of Quito (with a population currently estimated at 1,400,000). To recognise the importance of the Yanacocha Reserve to the city of Quito the Black-breasted Puffleg was officially adopted the Emblem of the City.

Also in Ecuador, we are assisting our new partners Nature & Culture International (NCI) to purchase areas of forest that protect critical watersheds. We have identified several candidate forest sites that regulate water quality and flow to nearby communities. The loss of these sites could lead in turn to loss of the services they provide, which would ultimately be detrimental to both the wildlife and local

### Background to Carbon Balanced

WLT launched its Carbon Balanced programme in 2005, and has been achieving offsetting by identifying and protecting forest sites under imminent threat of clearance. Up to now WLT has focussed on Ecuador, part of a biodiversity 'hotspot', where the Carbon Balanced Programme has supported the purchase, protection and restoration of vital habitat at four sites. The main approach we take is known internationally as REDD+. (see right)

So far, WLT Carbon Balanced projects have offset some 45,000t of greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise have contributed to global warming.



Over the past months WLT has been working with Howard Smith



Paper Group to develop Carbon Balanced Paper, where the production-related emissions have been offset at the point of sale across a comprehensive range of paper products. Offsetting has been achieved through purchasing threatened forests in Ecuador. See back page also.



people. These projects are mainly supported by funds raised through the Carbon Balanced programme.

Above: The Black-breasted Puffleg, adopted as the symbol of Quito. This critically endangered hummingbird is only found in the Yanacocha reserve, highlighted for its importance in providing clean water to the citizens of Quito.

### Africa finds a voice in REDD+ projects

REDD, is an acronym for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation. As the WLT has long recognised, deforestation is the largest single contributor to greenhouse gases, and significant sums of money are now being invested in helping 'tropical forest countries' participate in carbon protection projects, through initiatives such as the UN REDD Programme and World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. However Africa as a whole is being neglected by the global REDD+ process, mainly because there is not enough local expertise to access the funding. WLT has been working with Netherlands Committee of IUCN, providing REDD+ workshops in Africa where local NGOs exchanged experiences and received introductory training on REDD+.



Above: Participants at the 2nd workshop on "Carbon as a funding mechanism for conservation", held in Uganda. This was part of a joint training programme provided by WLT and IUCN Netherlands, for African NGOs, relating to REDD+ and other carbon initiatives.

WLT will shortly be publishing a joint report based on the workshops which we hope will act as an introductory guide to REDD+ and provide advice on good project design to help address the shortfalls in capacity and experience in REDD+ felt by many African NGOs. It should also help improve their representation within the global forest-carbon arena.

## Dear WLT:

"I don't think scientific jargon helps the conservation cause . . .", and

"Why isn't WLT doing anything to save Madagascar?"

John Burton, WLT Chief Executive, replies

### Cut down on jargon

*"I like WLT because I have confidence in the work that it does and believe that my funds are well spent. I also like WLT because it doesn't assume I am ignorant nor does it assume I am a scientist either. John Burton's editorial on the less than successful 2010 International Year of Biodiversity made interesting reading and it did not surprise me one bit to learn that most members of the British public thought that 'biodiversity' was a kind of washing powder. As he says, it is an ugly word that one struggles to understand; even more so the word 'biomass'. I don't think this sort of jargon helps the conservation world one jot. Thank you WLT for making it easier for me, an ordinary thinking person, to understand what the issues and problems are."*

Derek Halford, Swindon

Thanks for these comments; we try to do our best. Sometimes some technical words are needed if only as a form of short-hand, but jargon, by its very nature, is usually unnecessary. Many years ago, when I worked as an editor, I recall being told that a bright well-read 12 year old could understand most of the things the majority of the adult population could understand, if they were explained in plain English. And I think that is a good rule of thumb: make sure everything is written in plain English, and it will be understood by the majority of readers, even if the subject is totally alien to them. This is absolutely crucial to us in the WLT as a lot of the people we are communicating with do not speak English as their first language. Right from the day we were launched, 22 years ago, we have always made good communications a priority.

### Why isn't WLT working in Madagascar?

*"I understand that Madagascar has unique wildlife but is one of the most threatened regions in the world. Can't something be done to save all this wildlife from extinction? Why isn't WLT involved in buying land in Madagascar?"*

Judy Brownlow, Lewes, Sussex

I totally agree that Madagascar has some wonderful wildlife, and last year I was fortunate enough to have a few days in the northern part of the island and see some of the lemurs, chameleons and other unique species. I also flew over most of the length of the island and was appalled at the destruction of the forests, and the all too clearly visible scars of erosion.

Land purchase is a possible option, but it is fraught with problems, not least because it is only recently that a comprehensive land registry has been instigated. Much of the land is owned under traditional tenure systems, and often owned by communities. This makes the WLT model very difficult to introduce. And a further complicating factor is identifying a suitable local Non-Government organisation (NGO) to partner with. There are already plenty of NGOs active in Madagascar, but many of them are run, and dominated, by expatriates. It is my view that this approach is not only unsustainable, but neither is it cost-effective. But the depressing part is that I cannot offer any real answers to this - without at least US\$10 million to get something off the ground.

### Have your say through 'Dear WLT'

Write to us with your comments and questions:

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

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Win a copy of this book  
See back page



### Field Guide to the Birds of Colombia

by Miles McMullan, Thomas M. Donegan and Alonso Quevedo  
Published by ProAves Colombia  
250 pages, col plates, illus, maps.  
Price: £21.99 from NHBS

Published in 2010 this field guide is a must for anyone planning a visit to Colombia. More species of birds have been identified in Colombia than any other country: to date 1880, and the list continues to rise each year. Miles McMullan's plates are a celebration of the huge diversity of birds all of which are featured in the book, together with guides to identification and maps showing ranges.

**SPECIAL OFFER:** Until 30 April 2011 WLT can offer this book at a special price of £16 (+ 2.50 P&P). We regret that this offer is open to UK addresses only. Telephone us with your credit card details or send a cheque payable to WLT to:

World Land Trust (Field Guide)  
Blyth House, Bridge Street  
Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AB

After 1 May you can buy a copy of this book from NHBS for the same special price of £16 (plus P&P). To qualify for the discount you should quote ref: 'WLT' in the comments box when ordering online or if you make your order by phone. Offer ends 1 August 2011.



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# WLT teams up with BBC Wildlife for first ever camera-trap competition



Left: *The winning image in BBC Wildlife magazine's 2010 Camera-trap Competition, sponsored by World Land Trust.*



In 2010 WLT teamed with BBC Wildlife magazine for the first ever camera-trap photo competition. More than 700 entries were received from around the world.

Camera traps are unmanned cameras left in strategic positions to capture animals by chance. Some are left permanently recording everything while other more sophisticated models are triggered by motion sensors capturing only what moves in front of them. 'Up to the lens' images included some of the rarest and most impressive species in the world such as the Short-eared Dog, Small-toothed Civet, Snow Leopard and Arabian Wolf.

The use of camera-traps has revolutionised the way that animals are studied in the wild. Researchers and conservationists can now spy on rare and secretive species, gaining insights that would have been impossible to glean just a few years ago.

**Overall & Category Winner (Animal Portraits)** went to WWF Malaysia for Mark Rayan Darmaraj's image capturing a tigress up to the camera with her cub lingering in the background.

## Two of our favourites

**Highly Commended in the Animal Behaviour category:** Two-toed Sloth and young by Santiago Espinosa.

**Animal Behaviour runner-up:** Ocelot and armadillo by Joseph Kolowski.

A selection of the competition entries appear on the **BBC Wildlife** magazine website: [www.discoverwildlife.com/gallery/camera-trap-photo-year-2010-winners](http://www.discoverwildlife.com/gallery/camera-trap-photo-year-2010-winners)

## 2011 Competition

We are delighted to be partnering BBC Wildlife magazine for the 2011 Camera-trap Competition. It will be featured in the April issue of the magazine on sale 17 March 2011, and can be entered online at [www.discoverwildlife.com](http://www.discoverwildlife.com).

WLT welcomes Paramo as the sponsors of the 2011 BBC Wildlife Camera-trap Competition. Paramo's clothing is ethically manufactured in Bogotá, Colombia, and the company is Carbon Balanced through WLT. [www.paramo.co.uk](http://www.paramo.co.uk)



WLT thanks Howard Smith Paper Group for donating the paper for WLT News which is printed on Greencoat 100 gsm 80% recycled. We also congratulate the WLT's official printers, Kingfisher Press Ltd, on being awarded FSC certification. Whilst FSC provides a certified chain of custody and ensures they make every effort to manage and maintain the world's forests, they are minimising their impact on the environment in other areas too. [www.kingfisher-press.com/environment/](http://www.kingfisher-press.com/environment/)

## WLT Competition WIN A COPY



Answer the following 3 questions, the answers to which appear in this issue of **WLT News**:

1. Colombia has a border with Peru. TRUE or FALSE
2. The Indigo Flowerpiercer is an insect. TRUE or FALSE
3. The Golden Poison Frog is only found in Brazil. 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 20 June 2011 (open to UK addresses only). Prize kindly donated by Robert Giles.

The winner of the Winter 2010 competition was Miss J Whicher of Talsarnau, who won a copy of *Beauty Contest at the Zoo*.



Howard Smith Paper Group has been supporting land purchase and protection through WLT for the past three years and donates the paper for WLT News. WLT News is printed on Greencoat 80 Silk, one product in the Carbon Balanced Papers range. It is paper for which the production and immediate distribution has been Carbon Balanced, or offset, by the World Land Trust, on top of its other environmental and sustainability benefits. It reduces our carbon footprint. And is one of the most sustainable forms of communication available.



[www.carbonbalancedpaper.com](http://www.carbonbalancedpaper.com)