



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

news

ISSUE No. 35 LATE SUMMER 2010



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editorial



"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own."

Andy Warhol

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I like this Andy Warhol quote and feel it is very appropriate to the aims of the World Land Trust. It also set me thinking about all the various art forms we have used over recent months to help bring habitats and their species to life to raise funds to save them. This issue of *WLT News* celebrates biodiversity through what I think can be loosely classed as art forms and I hope you will agree that every picture paints its own story.

Starting with RHS Chelsea Flower Show, in May, we set about recreating a tiny corner of the Atlantic Rainforest of South America in the Great Marquee. Did we manage to paint the Atlantic Rainforest picture? I think you will agree from the photograph on the cover, and elsewhere in this issue, that we really did do justice to the 'real thing'. The judges must have thought so too because not only were we awarded a **Gold Medal** but we were also selected as **Best in Section**. Read more about our exhibit on page 5 and the back page.

Elephants have been depicted in art for centuries and the 'Emerald Queen' and the 'Pearly Prince' were beautifully decorated for us by 'their' artists. These were our two elephants in the London Elephant Parade which saw 258 adorned fibreglass elephants throughout the capital. They raised significant funds to help save habitats for wild elephants in India and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this spectacular success.

Another art form used by WLT to bring to life some of the world's most stunning wilderness and its wildlife are the webcams. We now have three webcams each giving a glimpse into the private

world of the rainforest through high quality streaming live from project sites. We are featuring some images from the webcams to entice you to visit the website and enter this private world without moving from your home.

Capturing wildlife on film using camera traps is another way of 'painting the picture' live from the wild. Our project partners regularly send us wonderful images from the field and they really do capture the immediacy of the moment. Last year I suggested to the Editor of *BBC Wildlife* that WLT co-sponsor a competition for camera trap images from the wild and we were both agreed that it was taking a bit of a risk. Would anyone actually take part? Would the images be of high enough quality? The competition has just closed and I understand that there were over 650 entries and I have had a sneak preview at a few of them. They beat all expectations. Please look out for them in the November issue of *BBC Wildlife* on sale on 28 October.

Art is all around us and nowhere more so than on our Partners' overseas reserves. Our aim is to protect as much land and its wildlife as we can for generations to come. I will close with another quote, this time from our Patron, Sir David Attenborough, who said:

'I am of the opinion that tropical forests must be saved at all cost. Despite our great skills we cannot recreate anything so wonderful.'

John A Burton
Chief Executive

and some Good News!

You can still Save an Acre for £50 - but not forever.

One of the ways in which WLT has always been different from other charities is that we have never gone in for gimmicky marketing. Our primary goal is to raise funds to purchase land under threat and to conserve it *in perpetuity*. The price we pay for that land is obviously crucial to what we do and at the moment we promise that a £50 donation will save one whole acre. This is because we are able to use matching funds to make up any shortfall. The

situation is, however, likely to change at some point early in 2011. The cost of land is being pushed upwards, largely by speculators, and at the same time the supply of matching funds is not inexhaustible. We anticipate that we will have to adjust the per acre price to £100. But BUY NOW as, at the moment, you can still save an acre for £50. The number of acres saved is important and to date we have managed to save nearly 500,000 of them. Please help us to add more while the price is still held. Thank you.

www.worldlandtrust.org

Registered charity: 1001291

Saving habitats and their wildlife

Masterpieces of nature these animals are all being protected right now by WLT project partners on the reserves you have helped create



Above: Orange-breasted Falcons nest on Fundación Jocotoco's Narupa Reserve. This photograph shows the mother feeding one of two large chicks.

Very little is known of the status of the Orange-breasted Falcon (*Falco deiroleucus*) even though it is known to occur in forests from south-east Mexico to Paraguay and Northern Argentina. Nowhere is it common and it is often confused with the similarly plumaged Bat Falcon, which also has an orange breast, but is more common.

Rarely recorded in Ecuador, Fundación Jocotoco were delighted to find this nest with two robust young on the edge of the Narupa Reserve. The nest is typically placed on a cliff on the edge of the forest, giving the birds an excellent vantage point from which to hunt. Relative to its size this species has particularly large feet and beak enabling it to capture a wide range of prey. Narupa currently protects 750 acres (300 ha) of tropical forest in eastern Ecuador and it is hoped to extend the reserve this year to link up with Parque Nacional Sumaco. This area is considered a priority as it is extremely rich in globally threatened bird species.

Right: Taken by Lou Jost on the Rio Zuñac Reserve, owned and protected by Fundación EcoMinga this is a Tamandua, or Lesser Anteater. Mainly arboreal, unlike the Giant Anteater which walks on its knuckles. Tamanduas have adapted to avoid puncturing their palms with their sharp claws by walking on the outside of their hands. In the past they were hunted for their meat and their thick hides.



Webcams: an insiders view of the forest Coatis at the hummingbird feeder on the Buenaventura Reserve in Ecuador



Although the feeder on Fundación Jocotoco's Buenaventura Reserve is intended for hummingbirds, coatis have discovered a taste for the sugary water too. Coatis are very bear-like in appearance but they belong to the racoon family. They have a reputation for their intelligence and their snout is very useful too as it can rotate up to 60° in any direction.

Webcam screenshots from the Feeding Platform in Brazil



These Common or White Tufted-ear Marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*) are regular visitors to the feeding platform by the Visitor Lodge at REGUA. Marmosets belong to a family of tiny New World monkeys; unlike some of the larger New World monkeys, the tails of marmosets and tamarins are not prehensile but are extremely long and used for balance.

You can view lots of webcam screenshots by clicking on the link on the website (see below).

Visit the Webcams in the Forest: www.wildlifefocus.org

An artistic stampede of elephants

The WLT's *Emerald Queen* and the *Pearly Prince* raise over £100,000 to ensure Safe Havens for Elephants

In May, June and July 258 elephant sculptures could be seen all across London in an event organised by Elephant Family, a charity with whom the WLT has worked for the past few years to raise joint funding for our partners, Wildlife Trust of India.

The fibreglass elephants stood 1.5m high, the size of an adolescent elephant, and each one was sponsored by a business or a charity and decorated by a different artist or celebrity. The result was a spectacular exhibition throughout city parks, street corners and shop windows.

WLT would like to thank everyone who helped create the 'Emerald Queen' and the jewellery, and also the 'Pearly Prince', for giving so generously of their time, enthusiasm and considerable artistic talent to help raise funds.

The story of the Emerald Queen



The World Land Trust collaborated with Elephant Family, and ethical emerald mining company Gemfields to produce one of the most spectacular elephants in the Parade. The 'Queen' herself wore a headdress featuring a 600 carat emerald and was beautifully decorated in emerald dust by Sabine Roemer.

Alongside the 'Emerald Queen' were pieces of jewellery designed by eight world-class designers to create a unique 'pop up' collection of bespoke emerald jewellery. They were all auctioned by Sotheby's in Selfridge's Wonder Room on 23 June.

The jewellers were united in their aim to create awareness of the plight of wild elephants and to bring attention to the Elephant Corridor project with Wildlife Trust of India to save vital habitat for elephants in India.

World Land Trust elephants created quite a stir

The WLT's 'Pearly Prince' elephant (right) was designed by SHO Fine Jewellery in partnership with Swarovski. It was one of the most glamorous and eye catching elephants of the parade and was exhibited in Coutts window on The Strand. There was a strong message in the design: one half being beautifully covered in Swarovski crystal pearls with the other side showing a pearl and crystal encrusted skeleton, symbolising what may be the fate of Indian elephants if action is not taken to protect their threatened habitats.

The 'Pearly Prince' was the only elephant in the parade with tusks. It featured 11,000 Swarovski pearls and 13,000 crystals and took 480 hours to create.



Left: The 'Emerald Queen' in Selfridge's Wonder Room, joined by models wearing the emerald jewellery created specially for the event. The impressive group of designers included Shaun Leane, whose earrings are shown in the inset.



Above: Actress and model Lily Cole, donated her time to take part in a photoshoot modelling the jewellery and has added her support to the elephant corridor project.

About the project, Lily Cole commented:

"It is heart warming to see the commitment and work of conservationists, such as the World Land Trust, defending precious and threatened species. It is also quite amazing to see the collaborative efforts that have been put in by the public, artists, jewellers and businesses from many different spectra to contribute towards this project and this aim. I think it is so important that as we, the human race, continue to grow, develop and expand we take into consideration our responsibility to share the planet with other animals and their right to space to live and grow in too, even if they cannot articulate or fight for it themselves."

www.worldlandtrust.org/events/emeralds-for-elephants/index.htm

The Atlantic Rainforest

comes to RHS Chelsea Flower Show and wins a Gold Medal & Best in Section

To mark the Trust's 21st Anniversary, and the International Year of Biodiversity, we set ourselves the goal of bringing a tiny corner of Atlantic Rainforest to this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

Bill Oddie launched the exhibit on Press Day and when we arrived on the stand the following morning it was to find that we had been awarded a highly coveted **Gold Medal** for the exhibit, and also judged 'Best in Section' (Continuous Learning).

John Burton, WLT CEO said on the day:

"Having just returned from a trip to the Atlantic Rainforest to show Bill Oddie the remaining forests for himself and to talk with project partners about what is being done to protect them, it was daunting to endeavour to recreate the real thing at Chelsea. But Bill was wonderfully enthused about our aim, and the team we had put together created a first class exhibit. As the future of the world's tropical forests hang in the balance it seemed the perfect opportunity to bring alive the beauty of the Atlantic Rainforest to the thousands of visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show. We know they are passionate about all things green and felt we added a new dimension to the Chelsea experience - we certainly talked to a lot of people who were very interested in the work of the WLT."

The exhibit featured some 50 Atlantic Rainforest plant species in a realistic rainforest setting, using Juniper's compost, made from recycled food waste. Exhibits in the Ranger's Hut included products derived from the forest and artefacts made by Indigenous groups living in the forests. It also featured a plasma screen which appeared as a window into the forest, in much the same way as a bird hide looks to the outside. The webcam, showing high quality webcam streaming from the Atlantic Rainforest of Brazil, brought some of their spectacular birds live to Chelsea. The Ranger's Hut and the Ranger's garden highlighted the importance of local people who are ultimately responsible for protecting the rainforest reserves being created.

More about the WLT's winning exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show on the back page.

Photo credits: Cover & Back: Lee Dingain; Page 3: (top left) M Cooper, (top right) Lou Jost, (others) webcam screenshots; Page 4: (Pearly Prince) Marie Chambers, (Emerald Queen) Tim Griffiths, (Lily Cole) Boo George; Page 5: Chelsea images (top) Drab, (centre) Elaine Shaughnessy/WLT, (bottom) Lee Dingain; Page 6: Ajiran Osman @ Aji, Page 7: (main) John Burton/WLT, (Bezoar inset) Wikipedia, (coins) Talisman Coins, (right) Mary Tibbett/WLT; Back page: (Bill Oddie) Chris Jenkin.



Top: Work begins on 17 May to create a tiny corner of the Atlantic Rainforest at RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Centre: Bill Oddie talks with workers putting the final touches to the exhibit prior to the Press Day on 24 May.

Above: The Ranger's Hut aimed to replicate a typical forest hut, with field guides, orchids blown down from treetops and examples of local crafts. The live webcam (see arrow) provided a 'Window into the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest.'



Using vision to help wildlife move safely



Rope bridges help Orang-utans to move safely where forest areas have become fragmented.



"We will cross that bridge when we come to it"
Orang-utans give new meaning to this old adage

WLT project partners, Hutan, based in Sabah, reported exciting news earlier this year that there was now clear photographic evidence of a wild Orang-utan crossing a man-made rope bridge.

The photograph, taken by Aijran Osman, a member of the local community with an interest in the wildlife, shows a young male crossing the Rasang river, a tributary of the Kinabatangan, moving from the Pangli Forest Reserve into Lot 1 of the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mr Osman reported that it took the animal about 20 minutes to make the decision to use the bridge and about 3 minutes for the actual crossing.

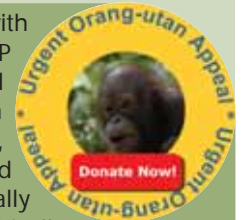
Over the years there have been eye-witness accounts of Orang-utans using rope bridges but they have never been substantiated. In the past camera traps have been set up in the hope of recording pictures of Orang-utans using the bridges but the cameras were generally destroyed by macaques which do regularly use the bridges.

About the Rope Bridges

In 2003 WLT project partners, Hutan, and the Sabah Wildlife Department, installed a number of rope bridges across tributaries of the Kinabatangan to try and give arboreal wildlife a way of moving between fragmented forests in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. These bridges have become necessary because the large trees that provided natural bridges over wetland and river tributaries have been cut down, and also because drains built by oil palm producers, leading to the mighty Kinabatangan River, have further fragmented the forest.

The land in the Kinabatangan flood plain is very wet and, since Orang-utans cannot swim (unlike most other primates) their movement is hampered, and once the trees spanning the rivers are removed populations become isolated from one another. Fragmentation of populations is one of the greatest threats to Orang-utans as indeed it is for many other endangered species.

WLT is working with project partners LEAP Conservancy and Hutan in eastern Sabah, Malaysia, to purchase and protect strategically important but critically threatened parcels of land in the Lower Kinabatangan Floodplain. This area is a priority region as it supports 10% of Sabah's populations of Bornean Orang-utan and 15% of the world population of Borneo Pygmy Elephants.



www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/malaysia.htm

The Pantanal

A new book that brings the world's largest wetland to life 35,000 acres protected by Guyra Paraguay

'In north eastern Paraguay lies a magical world that is largely unknown, where Giant Otters play, Jaguars roam, toucans soar and annual floods give rise to one of the most magnificent displays of life on planet earth.'

So begins the introduction in this new book: *Gran Pantanal Paraguay*, recently launched by WLT's project partners, Guyra Paraguay. With text and photographs by Emily Y. Horton, it is bilingual and the wonderful photographs really capture the beauty, diversity and importance of this dynamic habitat.

The Chaco-Pantanal Reserve was established in 2005 as a result of a legacy to the WLT from Suffolk businessman, Sid Templer. Initially the Reserve covered 8,896 acres (3,600 ha) but, with help from other WLT supporters, it now protects over 35,000 acres.

Paraguay is a country of great contrasts and as well as Pantanal it has Atlantic Rainforest, Dry and Humid Chaco and important grasslands. But all these habitats are being destroyed as biofuels and soya march across them creating sterile landscapes where wildlife cannot survive.



Gran Pantanal Paraguay is the second book that Emily Horton has produced with Guyra Paraguay, the first being *Saving San Rafael*, which focuses on the Atlantic Rainforest. The stunning imagery brings alive the forests and all that live within them.

Both books are available from NHBS online bookstore.

www.nhbs.com

Armenia: A critical need for conservation

Endangered wildlife commemorated on its coins



Above: *The Bezoar Ibex or Armenia Wild Goat (Capra aegagrus aegagrus) is one of the few mammals to survive in the high, dry mountains of Armenia. It has magnificent long horns which can reach nearly the full length of its body, which, unfortunately, is one of the reasons that it is so heavily hunted. It is considered Threatened in Armenia and features in the "Wild World of the Caucasus - Endangered Species of Armenia" range of coins. Each coin features an animal listed in the Red Book of Armenia, others include Anatolian Leopard, Caucasus Boreal Owl and the wonderfully named Toad-headed Sunwatcher Agama Lizard.*

The World Land Trust was contacted recently by Barbara Siebert of Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) based in Yerevan, with a request for help with land purchase to create a nature reserve in Armenia. Situated in the southern Caucasus, Armenia is home to some particularly interesting endemic species of plants and reptiles, as well as large mammals such as Brown Bear, Bezoar (a wild goat), Mouflon (a wild sheep), and even Leopards.

John Burton reports: "I visited with Mary Tibbett who coordinates WLT's Asian projects, and we were assisted by Razmik Navassartian, who works for Albertino Abela (former chairman of WLT), as our interpreter. It was a brief visit but we managed to pack a lot in with a 4.30am start on the first full day in order to get to the mountains in time to see Bezoar. We did manage to see them and it was clear that because of the local work in protecting them, while still shy they did not flee immediately.

The flora too was spectacular. Somewhat reminiscent of the herbal hillsides of Provence, combining drought-resistant thorny plants, culinary herbs and a stunning array of flowering plants. Overgrazing was clearly not a current problem and the diversity found in every square metre would be a botanist's paradise. The following day the Director of FPWC, Rubin Khachatryan, introduced us to Eleanora Gabrielian, one of the most important botanists in the Caucasus, who had recently published an impressive photographic guide to the flowering plants.

Perhaps the most moving experience was when we handed over the collection of reference books we had taken with us for their library, donated to the WLT's **Books for Conservation** project by NHBS. The young staff were very emotional explaining that they just didn't have access to such text books and stressing how much they would help their work.

Unfortunately, while there are many laws apparently protecting wildlife, there is little or no enforcement – and with per capita income as low as \$US250 a month in many rural areas, wildlife conservation is usually perceived as an unaffordable luxury. But there is hope, and FPWC have made tremendous strides, particularly in the field of public education. By working with communities and repairing schools (it is less than a decade since the country was at war), and introducing environmental issues into the curriculum, considerable progress has been made. The next step is to create nature reserves, and then with the support of the local communities show that livelihoods can be improved."

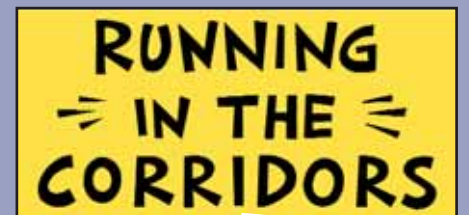
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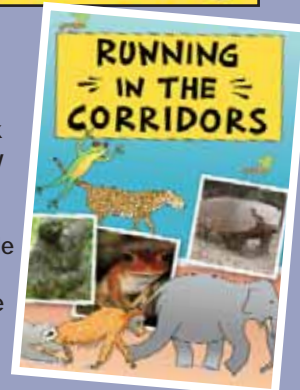
Above: *While on the field trip to Armenia, John Burton presented some field guides to the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) donated through Books for Conservation.*

This project was devised by WLT with the support of online bookstore, NHBS, who donate books free of charge to assist struggling NGOs in less developed parts of the world with text books to help them in their work.

www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/books-for-conservation.htm



Running in the Corridors is a new Schools Fundraising Pack designed for Key Stage 1 and 2 teachers and students available for all schools pledging to raise a minimum of £50 for WLT projects.



Illustrated by world-renowned graphic artist, Bob Linney, the pack gives teachers imaginative resources from which to design their lessons and encourages pupils, through identification with flagship species of wildlife and their habitats, to get involved, learn about the challenges, and finally to do something positive themselves.

For details phone Kelly Jacobs at the WLT office: 01986 874 422

www.worldlandtrust.org/education/running-in-the-corridors.htm

WLT wins Gold Medal in RHS Chelsea Flower Show and awarded Best in Section

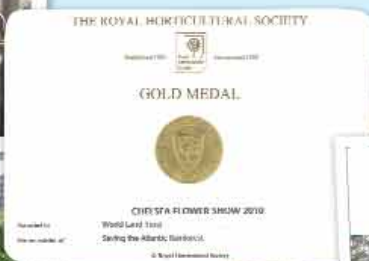


WLT exhibit soon to be installed in Chester Zoo's Tropical Realm

Left: Bill Oddie and John Burton on the Uruguay River, close to the Mocona Falls, in Misiones Province, Argentina. Bill wanted to see the Atlantic Rainforest for himself prior to representing WLT on the RHS Chelsea Flower Show exhibit.



Chester Zoo has a large and diverse collection of orchids and holds the joint National Collection of *Pleurothallid* (Bonnet) orchids. We were very grateful to Chester Zoo for loaning us a selection of these flowering orchids representing some of the rare and endemic species of the Atlantic Rainforest for our exhibit. We are delighted that the exhibit is to have a second life in the Tropical Realm of Chester Zoo. Please visit if you are in the area.



The Chelsea Publication

The 16-page publication produced for Chelsea is packed full of facts and images on the Atlantic Rainforest. Free of charge when making a donation, but please be sure to specify that you would like to receive a copy.



Cover picture

This image captures WLT's *Saving the Atlantic Rainforest* exhibit at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. WLT thanks everyone who made the exhibit such a success and particularly our sponsors: PricewaterhouseCoopers, Chester Zoo, Finetra, Howard Smith Paper Group, The Body Shop, Kingfisher Press, Eden Project and East Green Energy.

Prices held
 You can still buy 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 sqm, 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

2010 Exclusive Christmas Card



Winter Apples with Guinea Fowl & Blackbirds by Andrew Haslen
 See order form enclosed or order online: www.worldlandtrust.org

