



Members of the Guarani community welcome WLT representatives to their village.

The first land purchase in Misiones Province has now been completed. The negotiations were lengthy as part of the land is home to a community of Guarani people. Parties to the final agreement were: the Ministry of Environment of Misiones Province, the representatives of the Guarani Communities living in the forest, a representative of Moconá Forestal, (the original titleholder of the land), and owner of other lands in the biosphere reserve, and a representative from WLT's project partner in Argentina, FuNaFu. The agreement that was ultimately reached is truly ground-breaking, and has been heralded as such by the government of Misiones. Please help us save more as part of this successful new project.

Saving Real Acres of tropical forest

The WLT is, through its partner organisations, currently negotiating further land purchases and leases in Misiones Province, and funds are urgently needed to save more land as it becomes available. The Government of Misiones has agreed to support this project and is providing rangers to protect the land. Furthermore the Guarani Indians living in the area fully support the project, which guarantees their rights in perpetuity. We are currently raising funds through our JustGiving page:

www.justgiving.com/misiones

"The rainforest of Misiones is the largest remaining fragment of the Atlantic Rainforest of South America. It is full of unique plants and crucial animal species. It is vital to preserve the best sample of this ecosystem".

Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Scientific Director of the Eden Project

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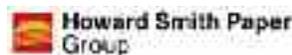
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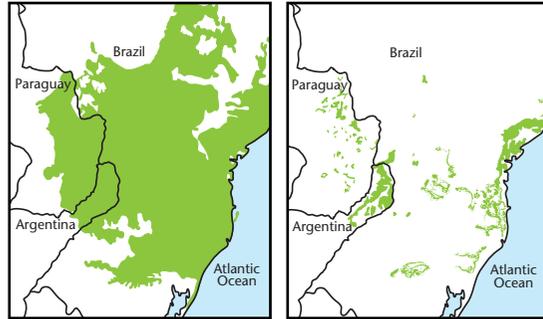
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Misiones Atlantic Rainforest Project

The Atlantic Forest of South America, with its high concentration of endemic species, is one of the most threatened rainforests in the world. Originally stretching continuously from the Atlantic Ocean of Brazil southwards and inland over Misiones Province of Argentina and into Paraguay, the Atlantic Rainforest once covered over 1-million km². The last fifty years has seen massive loss of habitat and the forests have been reduced to less than 7 per cent of their original extent.

The maps right demonstrate the extent of forest in 1900 (left) - a great swathe of green across South America, but by 2005 the forests had been reduced to tiny fragments (right). The forests continue to be lost at a catastrophic rate, as a result of logging for timber, forest clearance for agriculture and urbanisation, threatening species with extinction.



The Misiones rainforest project

The World Land Trust (WLT) is urgently raising funds to protect Atlantic Rainforest in Misiones Province, in north-east Argentina. The focus is on one of the last contiguous tracts of southern Atlantic Rainforest, and land purchase and protection are well underway, working primarily with Fundacion Naturaleza para el Futuro (FuNaFu) and also with Fundación Biodiversidad - Argentina who will be helping with the management of the reserves that are being created.

Saving this habitat is vital for the survival of far-ranging species such as the Jaguar (left). To maintain a viable population of 150 Jaguars, it is estimated that an area of over 1-million acres is required. This highlights the importance of ensuring large, connected and intact areas of Atlantic Rainforest.

As well as the Jaguar other endangered species depending on these forests for their survival include Puma, Ocelot, Giant Otter, Giant Anteater, Lowland Tapir and a huge diversity of reptiles and amphibians. Bird species number some 548, including Harpy Eagle, Brazilian Merganser and Black-fronted Piping Guan.



The Jaguar is protected in tropical forests in Misiones Province, Argentina.

World Land Trust is a registered charity:
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Creating corridor reserves to link forests

Misiones Province protects one of the last strongholds of largely undisturbed sub-tropical rainforest known as *Selva Paranaense*, and part of the Atlantic Rainforest *Mata Atlantica*.

WLT's focus is on saving forests within the Yaboti Biosphere Reserve, which covers more than 584,670 acres (236,613 hectares). Much of the land within the biosphere reserve is privately owned and consequently not protected against logging. The priority is to create corridor reserves to link together areas of forest that are already protected. Two designated parks, Esmeralda and Mocona, are close to Turvo State Park in neighbouring Brazil, but these areas are isolated from one another. The corridors will help link them all together to form a contiguous area protecting more than 100,000 acres (42,000 ha).



The area marked in green shows Misiones Province; the red dot the project area

The Emerald Green Corridor: the first purchase

The first reserve area to be created was formerly known as Lote Ocho (Lot 8), and has now been officially named **Corredor Verde Esmeralda (Emerald Green Corridor)**. This parcel of land was considered the top priority to protect in the Yaboti Biosphere Reserve as it connects the Esmeraldas Provincial Park and Mocona Provincial Park in Argentina, to the Turvo State Park, in Brazil, on the other side of the Uruguay River.

The beautiful Moconá Falls



Above (left): The Uruguay River, close to the reserve area; (right) a section of the Moconá Falls. The falls are caused by a deep trench, in places up to 100m deep, and they run, unusually down the river, not across it. Moconá in Guarani means "to swallow everything".