



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

Reef & Mangrove Appeal

Protecting coastlines and wildlife

Restoring Mangroves and Preserving Corals

The World Land Trust (WLT) first became involved in mangrove regeneration ten years ago when we helped purchase Danjungan Island in the Philippines. Back in 1996 the local community on the adjacent island

of Negros realised too late that it had been a huge mistake to destroy the mangroves around their island. They were witnessing a good deal more coastal damage as well as soil erosion, and WLT helped them replant mangroves which are now well established. Gerry Ledesma, the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Project Director in the Philippines, now works with the local fishermen to protect the coral reefs around the island which have been declared a Marine Reserve and Sanctuary.

In response to the 2004 tsunami, WLT was contacted again by existing partners as well as other overseas NGOs for help in the recovery of mangroves and restoration of coral reefs. The Trust has established a Reef & Mangrove Appeal, funds from which are assisting urgent regeneration projects.



Danjungan Island, in the Visayan Island group, was purchased with funds donated by WLT supporters and is protected by the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation. Mangrove replanting is being carried out on other islands in the Visayan group

The Projects

This appeal aims to help as many local organisations in as many countries as possible, and how effective this is depends on the funds we are able to raise. Two projects have been agreed so far. The first is to expand the mangrove replanting in the Visayan Island Group, in the Philippines, working once again with our partners, the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, and the second is in India where we are working with our partners, The Wildlife Trust of India, on coral replanting and restoration in Gujarat. We have also been discussing with Sri Lankan and Indonesian conservationists ways in which the Trust can help their mangrove and reef conservation and restoration work.



WLT will be starting a mangrove replanting and coral restoration project, jointly with the Wildlife Trust of India, focusing on the Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat.

Why so Important?

Although mangrove trees may seem rather nondescript at first sight they possess several ingenious and unique adaptations making them one of the most important trees on earth. For a start they are the only species of tree which flourishes in sea water. And although they don't bear fruit or nuts they regenerate quickly from what are called *propagules*. These are seed pods which start to germinate while still attached to the tree, eventually falling into the water where they take root in the mud.

In tropical areas of the world the location of mangroves often run parallel to coral reefs and they have a very special relationship: mangroves thrive in brackish, nutrient-rich waters, while coral reefs need clear, nutrient poor waters. Mangroves also act to purify the water of silt, human waste and nutrients which in turn provides clean water for the corals to thrive. Mangroves provide vital structure to the coastline, their arching roots trapping sediment that would otherwise be washed back by the waves. And the pools which are created by the root system provide spawning grounds for fish and habitat for many different species of animals, including bats, lobsters, manatees and birds.

The Rainforests of the Sea

A coral reef is a collection of biological communities making one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. For this reason coral reefs are often referred to as the *Rainforests of the Seas* for their astounding richness of life. Due to their structural complexity, corals are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth, providing important services to mankind including fisheries, coastal protection, medicines, recreation and tourism.

But both mangroves and reefs are at risk. Mangroves because they have been destroyed to make way for tourist resorts, aquaculture, or cut for firewood, and reefs because of pollution, dynamite fishing, cement making, harmful tourist activities and coral collecting for souvenirs.



A coral reef can take thousands of years to form. Although they are being destroyed at an alarming rate they are resilient and with protection can bounce back.

How You Can Help

The WLT and its local partners are committed to saving critically threatened habitats, and their wildlife, throughout the world. And by saving vital habitats we are also helping save Life on Earth. Mangroves protect vulnerable coastal communities and provide essential spawning grounds for fish and invertebrates, while coral reefs slow down potentially damaging tidal waves as well as acting as sensitive indicators of water quality. Coral reefs are also considered 'medicine chests' of the future, as scientists believe that their organisms could well hold the key to cures for cancer, and coral skeletons are already being used as bone substitutes in reconstructive bone surgery. Coral reefs are home to a huge concentration of wildlife and it is estimated that one-third of all fish species depend on coral for their existence.



Please make a donation today to the WLT's Reef & Mangrove Appeal. For a donation of £25 or more you will receive a personalised certificate, either for yourself or on behalf of a loved one, to record your support. We will also send you and your gift recipient WLT News giving updates on all WLT's projects, twice yearly. Makes a great Birthday or Christmas gift.

Going on Holiday? Don't buy local jewellery, hair slides or sunglasses made from coral or tortoise shell, or bottles of turtle oil or conch shells. Conch, formerly a major food source, is now considered endangered due to over-fishing, and hawksbill turtle is endangered, mainly as a result of illegal hunting. Buying anything made of coral risks the future of nearly a million species that depend on the reef for survival.

www.worldlandtrust.org



Photographs
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The World Land Trust is currently working with the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, based in Bacolod, Negros Occidental and the Wildlife Trust of India in New Delhi. We are also talking with other conservationists and NGOs with a view to forming additional partnerships to assist urgent coral and mangrove projects.

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