



## Seeing the Atlantic Rainforest

With such a richness and wealth of unique wildlife, this is one of the best places in the world to see tropical forests first hand. Until now, most of the funding for the project has come from the UK, but the project needs to become self-funding and one way to do this is through sensitive eco-tourism. A villa has recently been renovated to provide a perfect rainforest retreat. Situated on a small hill overlooking the new wetlands, with stunning views across the Três Picos (3 Peaks) State Park, it is now available for small groups who would like to organise their own relaxing holiday in these wonderful surroundings. The villa is only two hours drive from Rio airport, and collection can be arranged on request.



### Welcoming visitors at Guapi Assu

If you are interested in staying at the Lodge please contact Nicholas Locke (in Brazil) by email at: [aregua@terra.com.br](mailto:aregua@terra.com.br). Further information can also be obtained from the REGUA website (see below) or from Alan Martin (UK Representative and WLT Council Member) at [alanmart@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:alanmart@globalnet.co.uk).

*The visitor villa at REGUA (above) is a beautiful place to relax and see the rainforests that WLT supporters are helping save.*

### Saving Real Acres of tropical forest

Because of the rise in the cost of land in Brazil, WLT is unable to offer 'acres' for £100 at REGUA. However we will still be funding land purchase and if you would like to make your donation to REGUA we can assure you that is where they will be used. We are also supporting REGUA through 'Keepers of the Wild' - providing more rangers for the protection of the reserve. You may still receive a personalised certificate recording your support ~ for yourself or on behalf of the person you designate. You (and your gift recipient) can also receive **WLT News** three times a year and you can receive our electronic by registering to receive them on our website.

[www.worldlandtrust.org](http://www.worldlandtrust.org) [www.regua.co.uk](http://www.regua.co.uk)

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Cover: Kirsty Burgess/WLT  
Page 2: Thor Ostbye  
Page 3: (top) Thor Ostbye, (below) WLT  
Back: Alan Martin

World Land Trust  
is a registered  
charity:  
No. 1001291

World Land Trust  
Blyth House, Bridge Street  
Halesworth  
Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1986 874 422  
Fax: +44 (0) 1986 874 425  
Email: [info@worldlandtrust.org](mailto:info@worldlandtrust.org)

US donors may contact: [info@worldlandtrust-us.org](mailto:info@worldlandtrust-us.org)  
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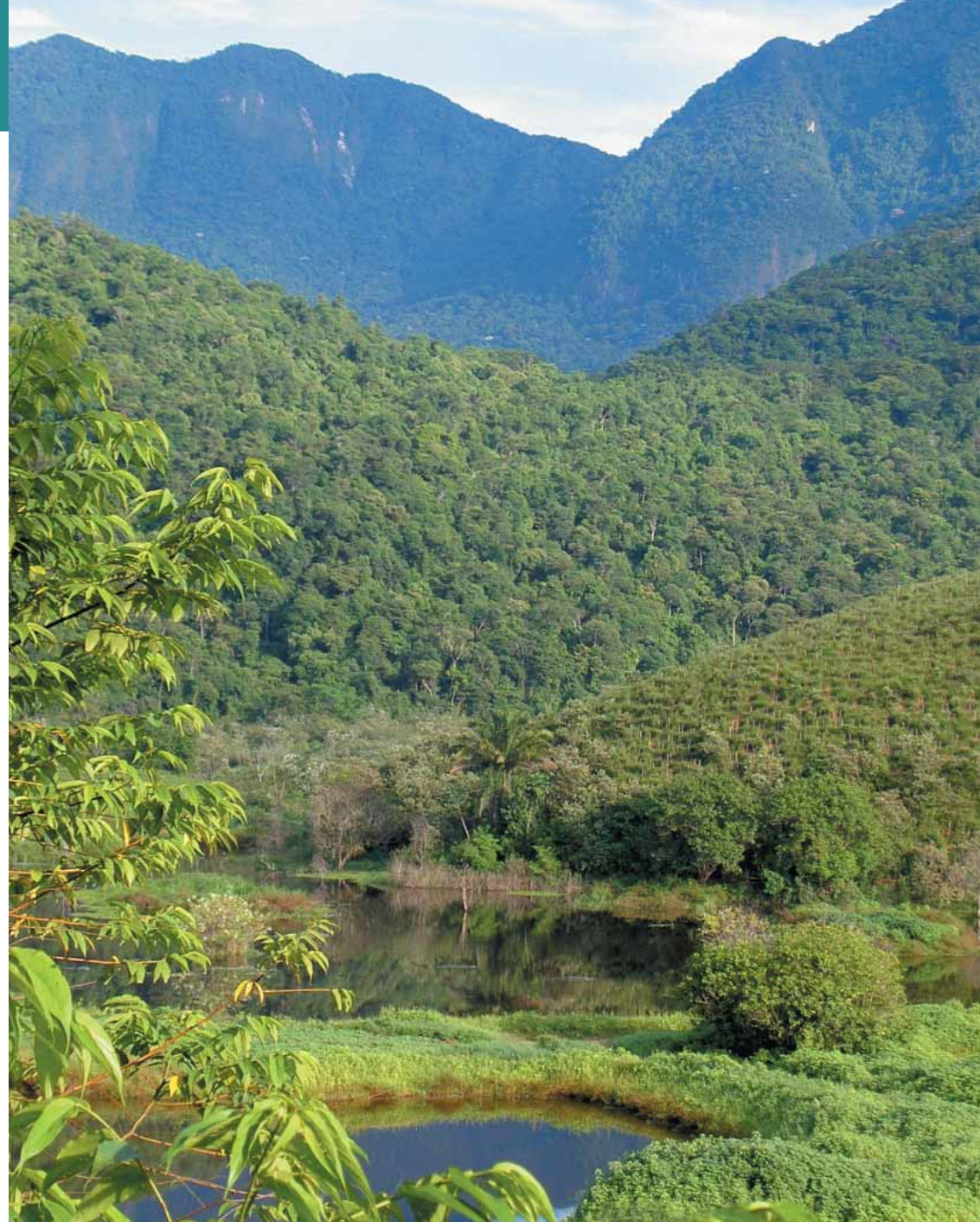
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Project Brief: Brazil





## Background to the Project

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil is considered to be one of the most important regions in the world for biodiversity and for endangered species of birds. To help set up land purchase and protection in this incredible region, WLT raised funds several years ago to assist in establishing the Guapi Assu Reserve.

Just 80 km northeast of the skyscraper city of Rio de Janeiro, and situated in this area of outstanding natural beauty, the 18,000 acre (7,400 ha) Guapi Assu Reserve now provides a crucial habitat for many threatened species. With more funding we can save and protect even more rainforest.

## The Reserve – Haven for Wildlife

The Guapi Assu Reserve spans 200m to 2,000m above sea level and provides a range of unique habitats which include highland rainforest and lowland wetlands. It also acts as a vital corridor of protected land in the Três Picos State Park, which means species such as Puma, Ocelot and

Woolly Spider Monkey can move safely between protected areas. The reserve area once held a large lowland wetland with rare species of trees, orchids and bromeliads, but this was cut, drained and turned into pasture thirty years ago when it was still a farm. REGUA had successfully restored this special vegetation type and the surrounding 60 hectares of degenerated pasture by the end of 2007. Now the area is flourishing with plants that have naturally regenerated from the existing seed bank, and wildlife such as Caiman and Capybara are returning to the wetland. Over 435 species of birds have been recorded at the reserve with 10 new species to the reserve recorded in 2008 alone: the restored wetlands are clearly attracting more species. Now that the land is wardened and protected REGUA has begun to reintroduce species that had been lost due to hunting in the past. The reintroduction of the Red-billed Curassow began in 2006 and has been extremely successful. Reintroduction of the Black-fronted Piping Guan, began at the end of 2007. It may be feasible to introduce some species of mammals in the future.



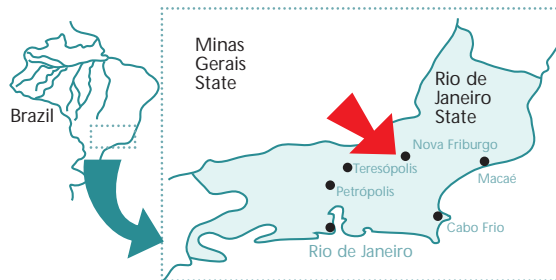
Above: *Brazilian Ruby (male)*, one of the typical hummingbirds found at higher elevations in the Atlantic Forest.

### Species Diversity on REGUA

**MAMMALS:** 55 mammal species, including Puma, Ocelot, Sloth and Woolly Spider Monkey.

**BIRDS:** Over 450 species of birds including Saw-billed Hermit, Elegant Mourner, Swallow-tailed Cotinga and Eye-ringed Tody-Tyrant.

**AMPHIBIANS & REPTILE FLORA:** Little is known of the amphibians and reptiles and flora and they are in urgent need of further study.



The red arrow indicates the location of the REGUA Reserve

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

## Plans for the Future



Above: A panoramic view of the Guapi Assu Reserve

The underlying aim behind all the plans for the Guapi Assu Reserve is the effective long term conservation of the site's rich biodiversity and natural beauty. It is, however, not enough to declare an area a reserve and expect that this alone will ensure its protection in the future. Recognising this problem, REGUA is taking a proactive role to raise the profile and support for the reserve through a range of integrated conservation, research, environmental education and community outreach programmes. Working with the local communities, including school children from the surrounding region, and landowners with contiguous forest, the aim is to foster an awareness of the complex beauty and conservation importance of the *Mata Atlantica*, and promote a sense of pride and ownership in the work at the Guapi Assu Reserve. The 'Young Rangers' for example, undertake research on the reserve and in return for their services they gain knowledge of wildlife management and an insight into working as a ranger, both of which will help their career prospects.

## Restoring the Atlantic Forest

REGUA has created a nursery from seeds collected locally and these provide seedlings for a reforestation programme. Reforestation is already taking place in parts of the reserve that have previously been logged and so far more than 100,000 trees have been planted. With so much of the Atlantic Rainforest lost to the bull-dozer it is important to restore forest cover to provide continuous habitats for wildlife.



*"The World Land Trust has filled a vitally important niche in the conservation world by purchasing and protecting threatened rainforest habitats, and I am heartened by the contribution they are making to preserve the Atlantic Rainforests. I urge everyone to support this important endeavour"*

Sir Ghillean Prance, FRS

Former Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
and a trustee of the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest Trust (BART)