



WORLD
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Editorial

by author and WLT supporter
Nicola Davies



Above: Author Nicola Davies has been supporting the World Land Trust for many years by donating the Public Lending Rights in all her books to the WLT's Green Ink Project. Nicola, who also writes under the name of Stevie Morgan, is one of Green Ink's most successful authors.

I've been a supporter of World Land Trust (WLT) more years than I'd really like to think about. I love their straightforward can-do approach to conservation. So when I was looking for positive conservation stories to write about for my 8-12 year old readers I went straight to WLT. And just before Christmas 2011 I found myself in Meghalaya in North West India, where WLT and their partner Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), are helping local people protect their forests and the populations of Hoolock Gibbons and Indian Elephants they contain...

Even in a drizzle very reminiscent of my home in Wales, the village of Selbalgre in the Garo Hills seemed like a version of Eden. The beautiful little houses, made of bamboo, woven palm and bark, were arranged in perfect harmony with each other and with their surrounding crops and forest. Birds called in the tree tops like miniature church bells chiming and washing hung in neat lines under the protective over-hang of the thatched rooves.

It was a sleepy, wet Sunday morning, warm and soft. Ever welcoming Garo villagers smiled from their doorways, as Rebecca Absalom from WLT and I were guided up the track by Sunil Kyarong, Wild Lands Co-ordinator for WTI, and local forest officer Rangku. We were in search of gibbons, although I didn't really understand why the middle of a village, no matter how Eden-like, was a good place to look.

Villagers smiled and pointed in response to Rangku's gentle greetings, and gradually the penny dropped: everyone in the village knew where the gibbons were. It was as if they were visiting relatives, of whom the local people were particularly proud.

"The gibbons like to be close to a village", Rangku explained, "they feel safe. And the villagers believe that it's a bad sign if the gibbons stop calling or go away."

Just fifty metres from the last house, we found them: a family, just like the human families we had just met, sitting out the rainy day, high in a Banyan tree. There was a pale grey mum and her tiny baby clutched to her tummy, her husband a few branches away and their two adolescent sons, hunched grumpily like a pair of clotted spiders. They moved briefly against

the dot matrix of the leafy canopy and we caught glimpses of trademark gibbon brachiation. But mostly they sat curled against the weather, occasionally shaking the dampness from their coats.

I had always imagined seeing gibbons for the first time in some remote place, hearing them singing in a sunlit dawn. But this encounter on a rainy day, at the edge of a village was more meaningful than that fantasy, because gibbons and humans had chosen to live as neighbours.

Over the short, but wonderful, time I spent in the Garo Hills that choice came to symbolise for me the other choices that the Garo villagers are making. They are choosing to keep their forests, by reducing their reliance on 'jhumming', or slash and burn cultivation, and by reforesting old jhum plots to form continuously forested corridors through which elephants and other wildlife can move safely.

Selbalgre, and Sasat Sakuladuma like many other villages, now have tree nurseries and villagers are involved in planting and caring for new plots of forest. With the support of WLT's partners in the Garo Hills, WTI, villagers can earn money by getting involved in the programme. But their enthusiasm for trees runs deeper than economic necessity. Sunil told me:

"The young people say that they want to keep the forest because it is their identity."

continued

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An inspirational visit to meet the people of the Garo Hills

Saving elephant corridors; living with Hoolock Gibbons and restoring forests to their former glory



That identity is crucial to the other important choice that the Garo people are making: to cherish their tightly knit communities, and their communal decision making processes. It is the strength of Garo communities that underpins their ability to protect their forests and the wildlife that they shelter. For the Garo villagers the forest isn't a resource to be mined, it is another community, like their own, complex, interdependent and infinity precious. It was a wonderful insight into their lives and a pleasure to witness a World Land Trust project in action.

Nicola Davies

"I don't remember a time when I wasn't utterly besotted with animals", says Nicola. "Before I went to school I was always in the garden looking at flowers, ants and bird's nests. Later I would be found walking with my dog out in the fields listening to the skylarks. I went on to do a zoology degree and studied various animals in the wild; bats, geese, whales... then a stint at the BBC Natural History Unit, in Bristol first as a researcher and later as a presenter on The Really Wild Show."

Nicola has been writing books for many years and introduces the natural world and its fascinating creatures to picture-book audiences adding a depth of understanding that is always inspirational. Particularly popular are: *One Tiny Turtle*, *Wild about Dolphins*, *Bat Loves the Night*, and *Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth*.

In 2009, in the wake of the dismal environmental outlook following the Copenhagen Summit, her book ***Gaia Warriors*** was published by Walker Books. This is an accessible, enjoyable book on climate change for the next generation of eco-warriors, presenting a hopeful and constructive approach to dealing with climate change, aimed at children aged nine or above. Afterword by James Lovelock.

We have a copy of *Gaia Warriors* to give away. It will go to the first person emailing us with their name and address, quoting *Gaia Warriors* in the subject box:
Email: info@worldlandtrust.org



Location of project sites where WLT works with Wildlife Trust of India.

The Wildlife Trust of India, together with the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre, have identified 88 'Elephant corridors' throughout the country, vital to the survival of elephants. These corridors of land are where protected forests have become fragmented and, in many cases, people have settled in them and are growing crops. This leads to major elephant/human conflict when elephants trash crops, and destroy buildings as they travel along their ancient migration routes.

So far WLT has helped voluntarily relocate families living within elephant corridors in Meghalaya state in the Garo Hills of NE India, and Kerala in the south-west. Being rehoused was *"like a blessing from God"*, said Kenchan, *"before all we could do when the elephants arrived was to remain indoors and quietly pray that they would go away soon."*

Nicola Davies (see editorial) was visiting the village of Selbalgre in the Garo Hills where she was met with local families who established the Selbalgre Village Reserve Forest in 2009. Up to 40 local families are now involved in seed and sapling collection which they grow on at home until ready to transfer to the holding nursery for subsequent planting out in the reforestation.



Top right: Hoolock Gibbons are classed as Endangered in the wild. They live in forests close to Selbalgre village in the Garo Hills, and people here see it as a bad sign if they go away or stop calling. Traditionally they were an important food animal.

Centre: A house in Selbalgre village; it is made of bamboo, palm and bark.

Below: Young tree-planters from the village of Selbalgre pose for a photograph.

Do you know any authors with books in Public Lending Libraries?

If you do please ask them to consider assigning their Public Lending Rights (PLRs) to WLT's Green Ink project. Nicola Davies' books raised over £790 last year. *"I am lucky that I can contribute so painlessly to a charity I wholeheartedly support"*, says Nicola, *"I would urge all other authors and illustrators to get involved too."* All funds raised go straight to WLT's Action Fund for its most pressing conservation needs.



For A Green Ink brochure please call Viv Burton at WLT (01986 874 422) or email her: VBurton@worldlandtrust.org or for more information go to our website:

www.worldlandtrust.org/supporting/green-ink

WLT's conservation projects and partners throughout the world

Map of where we work:

- Buy an Acre project areas
- **Special Appeal:** Save Margarita Island's Parrot
- Conservation projects that WLT supports through the Action Fund

WLT prides itself on having built up a strong network of partners across the world – working together to protect some of the Earth's most threatened habitats.

This year we welcome three new partners to our network; Fundación Melimoyu in Chile, the Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WECSZ) in Zambia, and the Ecological Association of San Marcos de Ocotepeque (AESMO) in Honduras.

Over the years, WLT has been extremely successful in funding land purchase, enabling our partners to create nature reserves in their countries. Together we have been instrumental in the purchase and protection of over 500,000 acres and ensure that over four million acres of land is managed under active protection worldwide.



Land purchase is the most direct and certain road to conservation success and will always be central to our work. But we are also constantly finding new and innovative ways of supporting our

partners' conservation work within their reserves. As you will see from our urgent projects below, this not only funds land purchase but ensures the continued protection of the habitat and wildlife.

NEW Special Appeal

Save Margarita Island's Parrot



Double your impact

Recently launched, WLT's new Special Appeal aims to protect endangered Yellow-shouldered Parrot chicks from collection for the illegal pet trade on Margarita Island off the north coast of Venezuela.

All donations are matched

All donations made to this appeal will be matched, making your money twice as effective. We have just six months to raise £10,000 to protect this seasons parrot chicks and help ensure their continued survival. The appeal will raise more funds for our partners, Provita; increasing the number of rangers on their reserve to strengthen their ability to protect the nest sites.

Buy an Acre projects

By buying acres of pristine rainforest and other biologically important habitats, WLT supporters are helping create protected nature reserves in Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala and Colombia.

Last year, donations to Buy and Acre allowed our partners to establish safe havens for Jaguars, Ocelots and Pumas – to name just a few of the impressive species that are being protected.

Plant a Tree with WLT

In the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest, WLT helped create the Guapi Assu Reserve; this area was once used as farmland and its pristine forest cover was stripped to make way for agriculture. Now we are helping to restore this habitat through reforestation and natural regeneration, successfully encouraging wildlife to return to their rainforest and thrive.

Keepers of the Wild



Last year, WLT launched Keepers of the Wild to put more rangers in the field to protect the reserves we have helped create across the world. It has been a great success as rangers carry out important conservation work, raise awareness about environmental issues within local communities, and protect threatened habitats and wildlife from illegal hunting and logging.

WLT Action Fund

The Action Fund can support any one of WLT's conservation projects across the world and allows us the flexibility to direct funding to where it is most urgently needed, enabling us to react to the changing circumstances faced by our partners and respond quickly when conservation intervention is needed.

Front Cover

Mexico's diverse forest habitat is captured in the background image with inset photographs of species that WLT is helping our Mexican partner, Grupo Ecológica Sierra Gorda (GESG), protect. All the photographs were taken by GESG's Technical Director, Roberto Pedraza, who is becoming internationally recognised as a wildlife photographer.





Meet some of our overseas project partners

Kew Gardens, London: 31 January - 3 February 2012



WLT partners have agreed that, if possible, WLT should host meetings every 18 months or so for them all to meet to exchange knowledge and discuss solutions to problems they face working in their own countries. The first Partner Symposium was held in the Netherlands in 2006 which discussed **Land Purchase as an Intervention Strategy for Nature Conservation**, in 2008 partners met in Belize to talk about **Financial Sustainability of Protected Areas**, in 2010 the symposium was in Brazil and discussed

Payments for Ecological Services as a tool for conservation and the Kew Symposium this year focussed on **Practical Solutions for Working with Communities for Land Purchase and Management for Biodiversity**. Of course all sorts of conservation-related topics are discussed at break times and in the evenings, and side workshops were also organised to give partners an opportunity to discuss sensitive eco-tourism opportunities and potential for raising income through locally produced artifacts.

Above:
Alberto Yanosky,
Exec Director,
Guyra Paraguay

Representatives
of some of
WLT's overseas
partner
organisations,
attending the
Kew
Symposium
earlier this year.



Top row: Lina Daza, Exec Director, ProAves, Colombia; Edilberto Romero, Exec Director, Programme for Belize; Roberto Pedraza, Technical Director, GESG Mexico; Nicholas Locke, Reserve Director, REGUA, Brazil.

Bottom row: Marco Cerezo, Gen Director, FUNDAECO, Guatemala; Sandeep Tiwari, Deputy Director, Wildlife Trust of India; Zoltan Waliczky, former Exec Director of Fundación Jococoto, Ecuador; Patrick Shawa, Acting Director, Wildlife & Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia.



Above: Lou Jost (left), co-founder of Ecuadorian partner, Fundación EcoMinga chats with Maryanne and David Mills who run the travel company Naturetrek, corporate supporters of WLT. Afterwards David said, "It was very beneficial to meet Lou and to understand what EcoMinga is doing and hopes to do; we were most impressed by his knowledge, enthusiasm and vision and look forward to visiting Ecuador ourselves before too long."

Dear all,

It was a pleasure and a really inspiring experience to meet you all at the WLT Symposium in London. It's a great feeling to belong to such a wonderful global community, to share the same objectives and exchange experiences.

I really hope to see you all in future again and to stay in close contact via skype, email and other means. We are open for any kind of cooperation and exchange. I also want to invite you all cordially to visit Armenia to see the great treasures of nature this small country harbours.

All the best and thanks in particular to the organisers of the event!

Ruben (Khachatryan)
Founder/director FPWC, Armenia



From Patagonia

On behalf of Fundación Patagonia Natural and everyone at La Esperanza I want to add my special thanks to John and to all at WLT, and to the rich family of WLT partner organisations for the excellent meeting last week. It was a great pleasure meeting you all and putting faces to names I know so well from work you are doing. The organisation was first rate, the venue perfect, and the meetings productive and useful, I learnt a lot and much enjoyed it!

Please let us know if you are planning a visit to the coast of Patagonia!

All best,
Guillermo (Harris)
President, Fundación Patagonia Natural



Greetings from Venezuela

I join in thanking WLT and all of you that attended and gave amazing discussions and ideas at the symposium. It was a tremendously enriching week for me. Being there to share with people from all over the world that have so much knowledge and experience on the issues that I want to help solve in my own country was just an incredible opportunity. I felt very encouraged and learnt a lot from all of you. I agree, it would be great if we could share more and more often.

Abrazos a todos,

Bibiana (Sucre)
Coordinadora Programa BioGente,
Provita

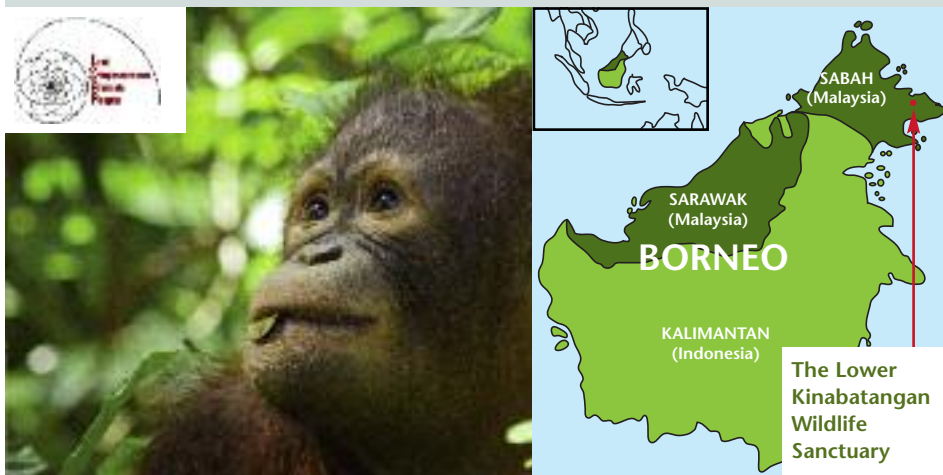


Thanks to the sponsors of the Symposium: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Swire Pacific Offshore and Stewarts Law Foundation. Thanks also to Puro Fairtrade Coffee who provided refreshments throughout.

Land purchase success 2011: celebrating the creation of more reserves than any other year

With economic struggles set to continue in 2012, WLT is heartened by the fact that despite 2011 being a financially difficult year we were still able to create more reserves than in any other year. Thanks to our generous supporters we were able to fund

the purchase and protection of 17,035 acres (6,894 hectares) of highly threatened habitat. This enabled our partners across the world to create or expand 15 nature reserves – protecting some of the most threatened species on the planet.



Above: About 80 per cent of Malaysia's wild Orang-utan population are found in the state of Sabah, in north-east Borneo, where WLT is focusing its land purchase efforts.

Wildlife corridors for Orang-utans

WLT has recently celebrated great success in Malaysian Borneo protecting two vital wildlife corridors that are reconnecting fragmented forests to create a continuous habitat for the Endangered Bornean Orang-utan and other threatened wildlife.

WLT is focusing its land purchase in the state of Sabah, in north-east Borneo, along the banks of the Kinabatangan River. Here, oil palm plantations are carving up the forests and forcing wildlife into ever decreasing and isolated pockets of land.

Just before Christmas we funded a 14 acre (5.5 ha) riverine parcel of forest; not only a prime habitat for Orang-utans but also part of a traditional elephant route for their migration past the village of Sukau, from the Kinabatangan estuary downriver to the upriver forests.

Had this land not been protected, then inevitably the forest would have been stripped to make way for oil palm plantations or other development and the elephant route would have been cut off which would have resulted in a significant increase in conflict between people and elephants surrounding the village.

We had further success this month (March 2012), when our partners completed the purchase of 222 acres

(nearly 90 ha) to protect a wildlife corridor that connects the fragmented Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary with the Kinabatangan River.

The corridor protects a critically important river crossing point for the Endangered Bornean Pygmy Elephant. It is also home to Proboscis Monkeys, which are endemic to Borneo, and is a hotspot for Orang-utans.

Yet securing this land purchase has been a great struggle; the small oil palm company who owned the land kept driving up the price, despite having agreed on an initial purchase price with our partner LEAP Spiral.

Over the years, LEAP has built up a good relationship with government and at this point the Sabah state government stepped in to support them in an unprecedented move to protect this area for conservation, demonstrating the leverage effect that our activities have in the region.

Estimates are that by 2020 only 32.6 per cent of Borneo's forests will remain and many of the island's 'flagship' species could be threatened with extinction. Thank you to everyone who supported these vital land purchases.



Ecuador's carbon reserves

WLT has helped all four of our Ecuador partners (Nature & Culture International, Ecuador; Fundación EcoMinga; Fundación Jocotoco and Fundación Pro-Bosque) to create new reserves or extend existing ones, successfully purchasing a total of 2,431 acres (977 ha) across the country.

Early in 2011, for example, WLT helped Nature & Culture International purchase the Río Nea Reserve supported through our Carbon Balanced programme. Carbon Balanced enables individuals and companies to offset their unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions through the protection and restoration of carbon-rich habitats.

The creation of the Río Nea Reserve, in the south-east of the country, will offset over 35,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions during the 20 year project life, while also protecting an array of threatened species.

This area was considered a priority as approximately 74 per cent of the new Río Nea Reserve remains covered by undisturbed primary forest. Unfortunately the high biodiversity levels of forests in this corner of Ecuador are threatened by deforestation. Before Río Nea became a reserve, around 7.5 per cent of it was cleared of trees by its owner and existing logging rights would have continued had the land not been purchased for conservation.



Above: The forests protected by the Río Nea Reserve

As part of WLT's Carbon Balanced programme, we are helping to fund the protection of an area within the Río Nea Reserve; a project that has the added benefit of protecting the local community's water supplies.



The new El Jagüeycito Reserve in Mexico's Sierra Gorda is an oak forest that provides a safe haven for threatened species like Jaguars, Ocelots and Pumas.



Another purchase has created the 370 acre (150 ha) Cañón del Fresno Reserve. This remote area has an extreme terrain and amazingly diverse mix of botanical species, with young flora growing alongside ancient endangered species.

The team at GESG are only just beginning to explore some areas of their new reserve and are frequently surprised by the amazing variety of flora they encounter and the strange mix of temperate and tropical elements; pines, oaks, and elms stand alongside Strangler Figs and other trees of tropical forests.

While exploring this area they have discovered what they believe is a new population of Mexican Elms (*Ulmus mexicana*) for Sierra Gorda, which they are in process of confirming. They also found fresh Broom Deer tracks, and saw flocks of Crested Guans and Singing Quails. In the distance they heard the Endangered Bearded Wood-partridge, an endemic to Mexico, whose population is suffering a rapid decline through habitat loss, except, that is, in the diverse and safe habitat of the remote Sierra Gorda.

Buying acres of Mexico's ethereal forests

Through generous donations to the Buy an Acre fund, WLT was able to help create two nature reserves in central Mexico's Sierra Gorda state last year.

The 308 acre (125 ha) El Jagüeycito Reserve, near the Santa María River Canyon, is oak forest that provides a key refuge for threatened species including Jaguar, Ocelot, Puma and Great Curassows. These species have been documented in the area by camera-traps with infra-red triggers; not only has this given us a great insight into the

area's most impressive yet elusive species, their presence also indicates that the habitat of this new reserve area is of great ecological integrity.

Roberto Pedraza, Technical Director with our partner Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG), said: *"This land has important biological value and will now be dedicated to strict conservation. If it was not purchased, the property would have been cleared for cattle ranching at great cost to the biodiversity of our area and country."*

Colombia: saving the world's rarest hummingbirds and deadliest frog

In Colombia, WLT is focusing on protecting the Chocó rainforest as it is a biodiversity hotspot that is being destroyed at an alarming rate, often by fires set by illicit coca and opium growers.

Surviving in a narrow band down the entire west coast of the country, the Chocó has one of the highest concentrations of endemic species on Earth, meaning that many species that live here cannot be found anywhere else on the planet.

Last year, WLT helped fund a 1,853 acre (750 ha) nature reserve called the Zamarritos de Pinche Reserve, home to two endemic and Critically Endangered hummingbirds – the Gorgeted Puffleg and Colourful Puffleg.

Not only does protecting the reserve safeguard wildlife, but reducing deforestation in this area also has the potential to protect local people from the threat of natural disasters such as landslides by preventing soil erosion.



The red band shows the extent of the Chocó rainforest, one of the last coastal tropical forests surviving.

This was followed by the purchase of 124 acres (50 ha) in early 2012 to create the *Rana Terribilis* Amphibian Reserve, protecting one of the last known populations of the world's deadliest frog. The Golden Poison Frog has enough toxins to kill 10 people, yet it is used entirely for self-defence and humans pose a much greater threat to the species in the form of their bulldozers.

Habitat damage and destruction is the major threat to the species' survival and improved infrastructure in the region has led to deforestation; illicit coca cultivation and logging is increasing, while an estimated 100 bulldozers and excavators are destroying the area for the illegal gold-mining. Protecting the Chocó rainforest is a conservation priority.



Above: The Colourful Puffleg hummingbird

Below: The Golden Poison Frog

The Colourful Puffleg only occurs in four small locations in the Chocó of Colombia. The male is very beautiful with a glittering blue belly and red and coppery-gold undertail. For its size it has enormous white leg-puffs fringed cinnamon.

Both these species were unprotected until WLT was able to fund land purchase with our partner, Fundación ProAves.



Keepers of the Wild:

Putting rangers into WLT-funded reserves

Helping project partners protect wildlife

In early 2011 WLT launched **Keepers of the Wild**, enabling our partners across the world to put more rangers in the field to carry out important conservation work, to raise awareness about environmental issues within local communities, and to protect threatened habitats and wildlife. **WLT sent out a questionnaire to discover more about our rangers:**

Here are some of the questions we asked:

Do you think your work is important?

All the rangers believed that their work was essential in protecting threatened habitats and wildlife.

Ranger Pablo Millán from Provita, Venezuela said: *"I visit many places on Margarita Island and I don't see the same diversity of plants and animals that I see in the nature reserve, this is because we prevent people from damaging wildlife in the area. We don't do this for ourselves – we do this for the plants and animals, so they survive and don't become extinct."*

What would you love to see?

Nearly all the rangers named a Big Cat as the animal they would most like to see – be it the Jaguar, the Puma or the Leopard.

Ranger José Manchay from NCI, Ecuador said: *"The Puma is the animal*



Rangers on the REGUA Guapi Assu Reserve protecting the Brazilian rainforest

that I would like to see most in the wild because it is beautiful and mysterious, but of course I don't know what I would do if one was in front of me!"

Does your government do enough to support conservation?

None of the rangers felt that their governments were doing enough for conservation in their country, although some said they had seen improvements in recent years with a few successful initiatives. Yet they would all like more prolonged support.

Ranger Messias Gomes da Silva from REGUA, Brazil said: *"I think the state government could do more. I would like the Forest State Police to patrol with the REGUA Rangers at least once a year; their presence becomes an intimidating factor to hunters in the area."*

The Puma, found in a large number of reserves funded by WLT throughout Central and South America, was named by our rangers as one of the species that they would most like to see in the wild.



Do local people want more land protected?

Rangers who had been working in the area for a few years felt that local people were seeing the benefits of environmental protection and were supportive of their work. However, some communities feared that an increase in protected nature reserves could lead to a lack of farm land for agriculture.

Ranger Galo Vélez from Fundación Jocotoco, Ecuador said: *"Some people think that protected areas are good, others want protected areas away from the villages because they don't see direct benefits from the reserves and see them as impediments to their development. I believe more advice is needed on how to increase agriculture production on smaller amounts of land."*

The rangers not only ensure the day-to-day protection of the reserves, but by working with local people to raise awareness about environmental issues they are also securing the long-term success of our conservation projects.

Postcards from the field:

Toad discovery and rare wolf spotted

This toad, never before described, was discovered by our partners Fundación EcoMinga near the Rio Zuñac Reserve and named Simpson's Plumb Toad (*Osornophryne simpsoni*) after WLT trustee

Dr Nigel Simpson, in recognition of his commitment to conservation in Ecuador.



Dear World Land Trust,
This is a tribute to the astonishing diversity of the Andes, but also a tribute to the strategic locations of both the Fundación EcoMinga and Fundación Jocotoco reserves. In both sets of reserves, there are many new species

discovered recently and we can be sure that there are still many others yet undiscovered in these amazingly special places.
Low Jost
(Co-founder of Fundación EcoMinga)



This recent camera-trap image has captured a rare sighting of a Maned Wolf in Guyra Paraguay's Chaco-Pantanal Reserve.

Dear World Land Trust,
During a trip to Three Giants Biological Station researchers from Guyra Paraguay installed camera-traps for long term monitoring of wildlife.
It is hoped that the cameras can identify the presence of several species in the Chaco-Pantanal Reserve that have yet to be confirmed.
We have already had our first big news: The camera-traps have proven the presence of Maned Wolf in the reserve, known as Aguara guasu in the Guaraní language spoken by local people.

CARD
ADDRESS
WORLD LAND TRUST
GUYRA PARAGUAY
We have been searching for evidence of their presence and local people mentioned that they are common in Bolivia and only up river in Paraguay.
Yet, these camera-trap images show that populations of this shy, nocturnal animal are also found further down river and on the Paraguayan side of the banks.
Mirtha Ruiz Diaz
(Researcher at Guyra Paraguay)

We are supporting both partners, Guyra Paraguay and Fundación EcoMinga, through **Keepers of the Wild**.



Early WLT projects

Keeping in touch and supporting when we can

When Edilberto Romero was over for the WLT Symposium earlier this year (see page 5) he reminded us that he had recently celebrated his tenth anniversary as Exec. Director of Programme for Belize (PFB); he replaced Mrs Joy Grant who had been appointed Managing Director of PFB shortly after its formation in 1989. WLT was established to raise funds to help purchase, initially, 110,000 acres of tropical forest about to be cleared for agriculture.

Today over 260,000 acres are now owned and protected by PFB and the forests are known to safeguard over 200 species of trees, 390 species of birds (including 25 migratory species), 70 species of mammals and 39 species of conservation concern including the Jaguar, Puma, Margay, Ocelot, the Howler and Spider Monkeys. It is the largest private reserve in Belize and covers four per cent of the national land area and therefore plays a significant part in the conservation of the biodiversity of the country.

We always enjoy meeting up with Edilberto and he brings a wealth of information to share with our other overseas project partners.



Above: Ocelot survive in healthy numbers in the PFB forests. The name 'ocelot' comes from the Aztec word "tlalocelot" meaning field tiger.

We congratulate Mrs Joy Grant, former Director of Programme for Belize on being appointed a Senator at the elections held in Belize on 7 March. Honorable Joy Grant was appointed Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, and Public Utilities. She is responsible for geology and petroleum, electricity, gas, solar research and development, science education, public utilities and the public utilities commission, water industry, telecommunications, and energy.

Postcard from Danjungan Island



Danjungan Island, with its pristine forests, inland lagoons and fringing coral reefs, protects an important range of endemic and migratory species, including the White-breasted Sea Eagle as well as important bat roosts.

It was saved from destructive development through donations to WLT, and is now protected as a nature reserve by the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, based in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

"Conservation in the Philippines is always an uphill climb as it is often found near the bottom of most politicians' priorities. Though beset with many challenges still, Danjungan Island shows how conservation ought to be done in this country when, in a microcosm, a small jewel in the Sulu Sea is saved for future generations.

We saved the island and its fringing reefs from development and we are looking after its estimated 240 species of coral (out of a national total of 450 species) and about 230 species of fish. The reefs display astonishing sponges and anemones and the underwater colours are staggering. It really is a tropical paradise and we are working hard to keep it that way."

Gerry Ledesma, President,
Philippine Reef & Rainforest
Conservation Foundation

Buy an Acre

For the past 23 years WLT has been buying Real Acres in Real Places. All the projects featured on this page started life as Buy an Acre projects and we have successfully achieved their permanent conservation. You can still support these projects by making a donation to the WLT Action Fund or you can help new Buy an Acre projects in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico.



The Ranch of Hopes

Estancia la Esperanza saved:
coastal steppe and beaches
for wildlife in Patagonia



"Tell me", said Guillermo Harris, President of Fundación Patagonia Natural, "you call our project at FPN 'Completed'. Does this mean you aren't supporting us anymore?"

We were horrified to hear this from Guillermo while we were talking at the Symposium. Of course WLT is still supporting the project at Estancia la Esperanza, but now that the land is purchased, the refuge created and the wildlife protected we have turned out fundraising attention to other projects where we urgently need to raise donations.

This doesn't mean that we have forgotten our friends and wildlife in Patagonia. Absolutely not. We would like to support their work by providing a **Keeper of the Wild** ranger for them. Would anyone like to fund this position? **£5,000 for One Year.**

The wildlife being protected includes those photographed above: Guanaco (numbers are increasing on the ranch now that the fencing has been removed), Elephant Seals on the coastline and a rare Geoffroy's Cat, photographed by José María Musmeci, Director of FPN.

WLT takes part in environmental festival celebrating Armenia's biodiversity hotspot



The animal parade at the environmental festival—a vibrant celebration of the world's wildlife, as a fun and inspiring way to raise public awareness about environmental issues.

John Burton (WLT CEO) and Mary Tibbett (WLT Conservation Programmes Officer: Asia & Africa Regions) travelled to Armenia, one of the world's lesser-known biodiversity hotspots, by invitation of the Third SunChild International Environmental Festival.

The vibrant four day festival is organised alternate years by WLT's partner, Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC), with the aim of raising environmental awareness. Nature and wildlife are the focus of the animal parades and colourful exhibitions, while a series of international film competitions, conferences, and public discussions are an important part of the occasion. As the only festival of its kind in the Southern Caucasus it attracts film makers, artists, and environmentalists from all over the world.

To coincide with the festival, FPWC held a three day conference in collaboration with WLT, entitled: *"The role of civil society and private actors in the protection of wildlife in the South Caucasus."* The Caucasus has a

rich diversity of flora and fauna, yet alarmingly 70 per cent is on the edge of extinction.

The conference successfully brought conservation and environmental organisations (governmental and non-governmental) together to discuss current challenges and possible solutions to the protection of all wildlife of the region. Mary Tibbett said: *"This was both empowering and ground-breaking for Armenia as there is currently little collaboration between conservation organisations within the country."* FPWC is working tirelessly to change this and the conference prepared the ground work for successful partnerships.

Conservation organisations across the country also had the opportunity to present one of their projects in a bid to win a grant of €1000 from WLT and FPWC. The winning project, selected by an independent jury, was Green Lane Agricultural Assistance for their innovative approach to conservation of wild Armenian herbs.



Above: FPWC Ranger Manuk Manukyan and WLT's Mary Tibbett in the Buffer Zone Reserve; the rangers are planting walnut trees in front of the ranger station and hope that once established these trees will provide food for foraging Brown Bears living within the reserve.

How does WLT support conservation in Armenia?



WLT is funding head ranger, Manuk Manukyan, through the Keepers of the Wild programme to help protect the FPWC's Buffer Zone Reserve. Manuk is training three new rangers, all from the local community, who are working towards reducing illegal hunting in the reserve to protect its threatened wildlife.

A den of an Endangered Wild Cat with kittens is one of the many recent wildlife sightings within the reserve. Manuk said: *"It seems that the reserve is home to a couple of these beautiful animals who are usually solitary but seek company during the mating season in late winter. The area offers an ideal habitat for these small predators, as there is an abundance of prey, such as hares, mice, lizards and birds."*

The rangers have also seen signs of Brown Bears living in the reserve and wolves have been spotted preying on a healthy population of Bezoar Ibex (or Armenia Wild Goat) *Capra Aegagrus aegagrus*. The Bezoar (below) is a spectacular animal, with horns nearly as long as its body, and only exists in the Caucasus region. Overhunting has caused a dramatic decline in the wild population.



WLT's Books for Conservation project supported by NHBS

While in Armenia WLT CEO John Burton presented FPWC with text books, earmarked for onward donation to Yerevan Zoo, as part of the Books for Conservation project. The project, devised by WLT with the support of online bookstore NHBS, provides struggling conservation organisations in less developed parts of the world with free text books to help them in their work. Earlier in the year, FPWC's Ruben Khachatryan became director of the Yerevan Zoo and the donated books will be well used by the organisation as well as the zoo staff and researchers.

Other NGOs recently benefitting from receiving books through this programme include Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, Chipembele (Zambia) and Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina.

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



Sir David Attenborough supports WLT because of our ethos and principles



Sir David Attenborough speaks about his support for WLT at a fundraising event in London, held in January.

Above: Sir David with some WLT staff members and consultants: (left to right) Emma Beckett (Emma Beckett PR), Viv Burton (Head of Communications), Mary Tibbett (Conservation Programmes Officer: Asia & Africa Regions), Sir David Attenborough, Ruth Canning (Conservation Programmes Officer: Americas Region), Sophie Chong (WLT Account Executive, Emma Beckett PR), Simon Barnes (WLT Council member, author and journalist), Kristina Turner (Conservation Communications Manager), and John Burton (WLT's CEO).

"The money that is given to the World Land Trust, in my estimation, has more effect on the wild world than almost anything I can think of."

Sir David Attenborough, Patron

In January, WLT patron Sir David Attenborough gave an inspiring speech at a lecture entitled *"Biodiversity and Business: The Cost of Life on Earth"*.

He explained why he believes the ethos, principles and mission of WLT are the most effective ways of protecting the planet's threatened wildlife.

"Just saving a single species of course is important," he said, "but it's only important because it's an indication of something. So what you need, if you're going to conserve the wildlife of the world, is land.

"The World Land Trust knows that if that land – in that remote part of the world – is to be saved, the people who can save it are the people who live there and who know what the problem is; the people who have the enterprise and the conviction to do something about it."

Speaking to an audience of lawyers, city investors and business people at a fundraising evening organised by London law firm, Charles Russell, Sir David stressed the crucial role that corporations had in supporting conservation work across the world.

Over 60 per cent of WLT's funding comes from corporate support. Although our regular individual supporters are crucial donors and the backbone of our success, without the combined commitment of big businesses we could not afford to buy land in many parts of the world, such as Borneo and India, where land price is escalating at

a dramatic rate due to development and population growth.

Environmental journalist Lewis Smith, reporting on Sir David's speech in *The Guardian*, wrote: *"The human population is calculated to have reached seven billion last year, a decade after it reached six billion, and is forecast to continue to grow throughout the 21st century. By 2050, it is expected to have passed nine billion."*

This projected human population growth, along with rising consumption and production rates, will contribute to the pressure on natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

John Burton, WLT's CEO, said: *"Population growth in developed countries has major impacts on resources in many other parts of the world, often in areas where WLT's network of partner organisations are trying to conserve wildlife."* By working directly with local groups and communities, our partners are helping them protect their natural resources and take charge of conserving threatened habitats in their country.

Sir David explained: *"The support that is given to the World Land Trust is support that goes directly to the place where it's needed; to the people – not here or to any other capital city of the western world – but to the people who live on that land, who will care for that land in the way that only they can and in the way only they understand."*

Sir David's speech was complimented by talks from Simon Barnes (WLT Council member, author, and journalist at *The Times*) who spoke of his passion for wildlife and wild places and Malcolm Preston, a Global and UK Leader on Sustainability and Climate Change at PricewaterhouseCoopers, a WLT corporate supporter. The full version of their speeches, as well as short samples, can all be seen and heard on the WLT YouTube page.

www.youtube.com/worldlandtrust

Leave a legacy to save Life on Earth

A legacy to the World Land Trust is a legacy for future generations, ensuring some of the last remaining strongholds of our earthly paradise will survive for our descendants. You may also like to consider a 'living legacy' by making a donation that will create an entire reserve, which you can go and visit in your lifetime. If you have already made your will, you might want to consider a Codicil in favour of WLT.

If you would like to speak, in confidence, to Viv Burton, Head of Communications, please telephone:



WLT teams up with BBC Wildlife magazine and sponsors, Paramo, for second year of the Camera-trap Competition



Right: The winning image in BBC Wildlife magazine's Camera-trap Competition, sponsored by WLT.

Overall & Category Winner (Animal Behaviour) winning £3,000 went to Ongava Research Centre in Namibia for this stunning image of a fearless Black-backed Jackal running rings round a male Lion.



Launched in 2010, the competition has been raising awareness and funds for conservation by searching for the most exciting and revealing camera-trap images being captured by conservationists around the world. The judges give particular weight to the contribution that each image makes to scientific knowledge.

Camera-traps have revolutionised the way that conservationists study animals in the wild, gaining intimate knowledge of their behaviour and leading to some astonishing new discoveries. They are contributing enormously to scientific understanding, leading to improved conservation of the species they photograph. We look forward to seeing 2012 entries: we are never disappointed.

You can see the winners, runners-up and commended images on the **BBC Wildlife** magazine website:

www.discoverwildlife.com/gallery/bbc-wildlife-camera-trap-photo-year-2011-winners

John Burton, WLT's CEO, said:

"Importantly, this money doesn't go to the individual but instead provides direct funding for conservation projects. WLT believes in working with overseas partner NGOs so we are delighted to be able to strengthen their resources in this way."

2012 Competition

The deadline for entries to the 2012 Camera-trap Competition is 13 July. The winners will be announced in the December issue of the magazine on sale on 21 November. You can enter online at: www.discoverwildlife.com

WLT thanks Paramo for sponsoring the



BBC Wildlife Camera-trap Competition. Paramo's clothing is ethically manufactured in Bogotá, Colombia, and the company is Carbon Balanced through WLT.



Puro Fair Trade coffee has been supporting WLT by donating two per cent of turnover since 2006.

In recognition of their support an orchid new to science, discovered in Fundación EcoMinga's Cerro Candelaria Reserve in Ecuador, which they helped fund, has been named *Teagueia puroana* in their honour.



WLT Competition

Win a PURO upcycled bag filled with Fairtrade coffee



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

1. The Yellow-shouldered Parrot is only found in Colombia
TRUE or FALSE
2. The Bezoar Ibex can have horns nearly as long as its body
TRUE or FALSE
3. Proboscis Monkeys are protected by WLT's project areas in Borneo.
TRUE or FALSE
4. The Golden Poison Frog is only found in Brazil
TRUE or FALSE
5. The Colourful Puffleg is a type of hummingbird
TRUE or FALSE

Send your answers with your name and address to:

**WLT Competition,
Blyth House, Bridge Street,
Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK**

Or you can enter by emailing: info@worldlandtrust.org and putting **Competition** in the subject box. We can only accept entries from UK addresses. Entries to be received by 20 June 2012. Prize kindly donated by Puro Fair Trade Coffee.

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