

# Tree planting in Ecuador



## Plant a Tree With WLT



In Ecuador, WLT is funding tree planting in the Nangaritza river catchment on the Amazonian slope of the Andes.

The Nangaritza Valley is a highly biodiverse watershed protecting foothill forests that are part of the Podocarpus-El Condor Biosphere Reserve, and water supplies for downstream municipalities.

The region around the Podocarpus National Park is considered biologically distinct from the surrounding forests due to the high level of endemic species. It has an astonishing 600 bird species, including 60 species of hummingbirds, 80 different tanagers, and many endemic species found only in the region's mountains. Mammal species include Jaguar, Spectacled Bear, Mountain Tapir and Ocelot. The Nangaritza Valley itself supports important populations of reptiles and amphibians, including the Tiger-leg Monkey Frog (photographed above). It also has one of the highest concentrations of endangered plants in the world. It is estimated that over 40 per cent of the 3,500 plant species within the park are endemic.

**Please help us plant more trees today. You can make a donation for as little as £5 by calling the WLT office: 01986 874 422**

### A message from WLT's Patron, Sir David Attenborough

“ In a world where wildlife battles to survive I take heart in the work being carried out by the World Land Trust. WLT isn't about talking it is about action, action that is saving and restoring thousands of acres of wilderness every year. On the reserves purchased through donations to the Trust, which are expertly managed by its overseas partners, permanent protection is in place. More funds mean more protection. ”

Sir David Attenborough, OM CH FRS. Patron, World Land Trust



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Plant a Tree

**Saving habitats**  
**Saving species**

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

## Tropical forests are being recreated thanks to Plant a Tree



### Restoring the Atlantic Forest of Brazil

The image above shows REGUA's Guapiaçu Assu Reserve prior to the reserve being created. The original wetland had been drained for agriculture. Over the past two decades the wetlands have been recreated and the forests replanted, showing how habitat can be restored in a relatively short space of time.

### It is possible to recreate tropical forest

REGUA's success is due to the indefatigable efforts of Nicholas and Raquel Locke who have worked tirelessly to create the Guapiaçu Reserve which protects over 18,000 acres (7,500 hectares) of crucial habitat for many threatened species.

The good news about tropical forests is that they *can* be recreated. The simple way is by natural regeneration. If land is left uncultivated it can regenerate without help. At REGUA, as with several other WLT partners, they are replanting areas that have been slow to regenerate, using native plants grown in their own nursery. So far REGUA has planted 360,000 trees of up to 120 different native species. The survival and growth rate has exceeded all expectations. As Nicholas Locke explains, *"With the tree planting and the restoration of the wetland we have been astonished by how quickly they have re-colonised. Wetland plants just appeared, as well as a wide range of wetland bird species, reptiles such as caiman, amphibians and mammals such as capybara. In the forests we are seeing more bird species every year."*



REGUA's programme to restore the critically endangered lowland Atlantic Forest is showing a spectacular increase in bird species - from 50 known species in 2004 to over 455 species today.

**Replanting forests with native trees.** Seeds are collected from the forest floor and grown in local nurseries. When the saplings are big enough they are used to restore forests that have been lost in the past. This is a time consuming task and the seedlings need attention to ensure their survival during the first few years' growth when they are vulnerable.

## WLT helps tree planting with overseas partners

Plant a Tree



So far WLT has helped restore forests in Brazil, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Paraguay, Armenia and Tanzania. Our current priorities are Brazil, Ecuador and Kenya.

Blocks of 5,000 native trees are planted to strategically buffer and connect forests. Saplings are monitored and maintained until they can survive on their own and mortalities are replaced. These trees are funded through donations to Plant a Tree.

### Plant a Tree funds are currently extending forests protected by REGUA, Naturaleza y Cultura Ecuador and Nature Kenya

The work in Kenya targets restoration of natural forest on Mount Kenya, in areas where it has been deforested.

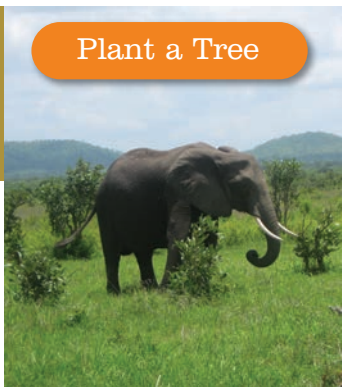
This is a key area that consists of Afromontane habitat. It is one of Kenya's key biodiversity sites, and is an extremely important water catchment area.



A wide range in altitude and high rainfall has led to a variety of habitat types (eight different natural forest types) resulting in high plant and animal diversity.

The Mount Kenya Forest, along with Kenya's four other major areas of montane forest are known as Kenya's "Water Towers". These protect the headwaters of Kenya's major river systems, regulate Kenya's water yield and support a variety of Kenya's economic sectors including agriculture. It has been shown that deforestation affects the seasonal flow of water in Kenya. During the rainy seasons increased runoff from deforested areas results in reduced water quality in fresh water systems. During the dry seasons reduced water availability becomes a limiting factor to economic activities.

At least five species of large mammals of international conservation concern are found here - African Elephant, Black Rhino, Giant Forest Hog, Bongo and Black-fronted Duiker; 882 plant species have been identified.



Plant a Tree

### You can play a part in creating the tropical forests of the future:

- For £5 we will plant a tree for yourself or as a gift and will send a Gift Card with standard text
- For a donation of £25 we will plant five trees and send you a personalised Certificate and Gift Card