



## Visiting 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. The lodge on the reserve provides a perfect rainforest retreat. Situated on a small hill overlooking the new wetlands, with stunning views across the Três Picos (Three Peaks) National Park, it is available for small groups who would like to organise their own relaxing holiday in these wonderful surroundings. The lodge is only two hours drive from Rio airport, and collection can be arranged on request.



*The visitors' lodge at the reserve (above) is a beautiful place to relax and see the rainforests that WLT supporters are helping save.*

### Welcoming visitors at the Guapi Assu Reserve

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: [alanjmart@gmail.com](mailto:alanjmart@gmail.com)

## How you can help

Donate to **Plant a Tree with WLT** and you will be helping restore the Atlantic Rainforest in the Guapi Assu Reserve, improving this habitat for wildlife. One tree costs just £5 and comes with standard text gift card in recognition of your support, while five trees cost £25 and comes with personalised certificate.

Or support our **Keepers of the Wild** appeal and help put more rangers in the reserve to protect its wildlife from the threat of illegal hunting and its habitat from destruction. Donate as little as £25 today, either for yourself or as a gift, and receive a personalised certificate recording your support and the latest news on WLT's conservation work.

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

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**Blyth House, Bridge Street**  
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**Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK**

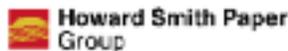
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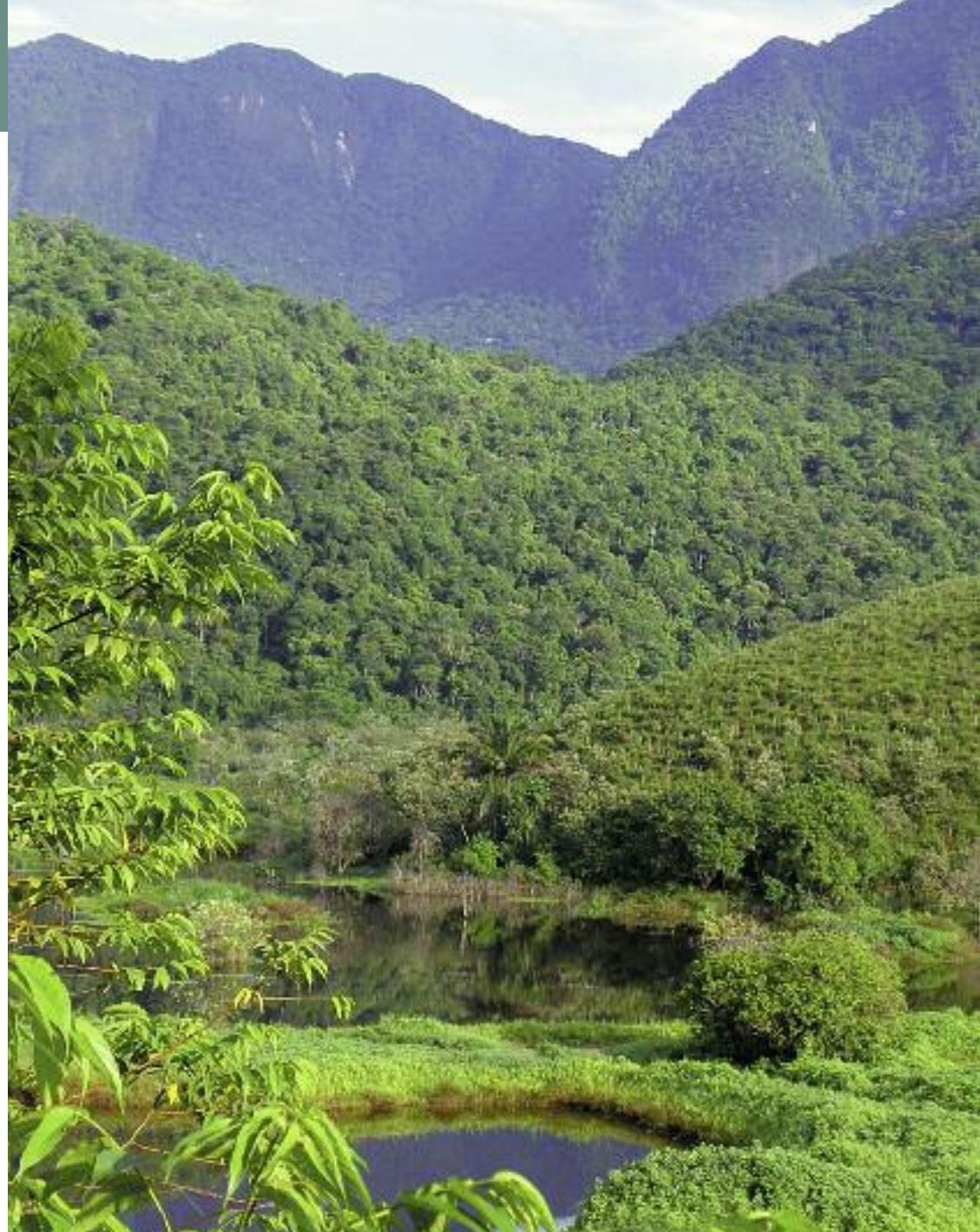
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Project Brief: Brazil

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## Saving the Atlantic Rainforest



The Atlantic Rainforest 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 with our partner organisation REGUA (Reserva Ecológica de Guapi Assu).

Just 80 kilometres northeast of the skyscraper city of Rio de Janeiro, and situated in this area of outstanding natural beauty, the 18,000 acre (7,400 hectare) Guapi Assu Reserve provides a crucial habitat for many threatened species. WLT is now focusing its fundraising efforts on protecting the habitat and wildlife within the reserve through the **Keepers of the Wild appeal and Plant a Tree with WLT**.

### The Reserve – a Haven for Wildlife

The Guapi Assu Reserve spans 200 meters to 2,000 meters above sea level and protects a range of unique habitats that include highland rainforest and lowland wetlands. It also acts as a vital corridor of protected land in the Três Picos National Park, which means species such as Puma, Ocelot and Woolly Spider Monkey can move safely.

The reserve once held a large lowland wetland with rare species of trees, orchids and bromeliads, but this was cut, drained and turned into pasture 30 years ago when it was still a farm. REGUA has now successfully restored this special vegetation type and the surrounding 148 acres (60 ha) of degenerated pasture. 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 455 species of birds have been recorded at the reserve with 10 new species to the reserve recorded in 2008 alone.

Now that the reserve is 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.



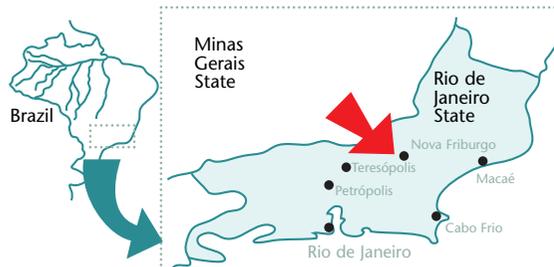
*Brazilian Ruby (male), one of the typical hummingbirds found at higher elevations in the Atlantic Forest.*

#### Species Diversity on REGUA

**MAMMALS:** Over 60 mammal species, including Puma, Ocelot, Sloth and Woolly Spider Monkey

**BIRDS:** Over 455 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, reptiles and flora; they are in urgent need of further study.



*The red arrow indicates the location of the REGUA Reserve*

## Protecting the Guapi Assu Reserve



*A panoramic view of the Guapi Assu Reserve*

### Keepers of the Wild

It is not enough to declare an area a reserve and expect that this alone will ensure its protection in the future. Recognising this problem, WLT is supporting more rangers to prevent illegal hunting and habitat damage within the reserve and surrounding area, through the **Keepers of the Wild** programme.

The rangers, who all live in the local community, carry out conservation work, research, environmental education and community outreach programmes. Working with local communities, 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 Atlantic Rainforest.

School children from surrounding villages are encouraged to become 'Young Rangers' and get involved in volunteering at REGUA. They undertake research on the reserve and take part in REGUA's environmental education programme so that they gain knowledge of wildlife management and an insight into working as a ranger, both of which will help their career prospects.



*Ranger Antonio helps a local school child plant a tree in the Atlantic Rainforest reserve in Brazil as part of its reforestation.*

### Plant a Tree with WLT

REGUA has created a nursery from seeds collected locally and these provide seedlings for a reforestation programme. Tree planting is already taking place in parts of the reserve to connect fragmented and isolated patches of forest that were previously logged to make way for agriculture when the reserve was farm land.

With so much of the Atlantic Rainforest lost to the bulldozer it is important to restore forest cover to provide a continuous habitat for wildlife. This is particularly important for larger ranging species, such as the Puma, which is known to travel through the reserve.

*"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 Ghilleen Prance, FRS**

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