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**Saving habitats
Saving species
since 1989**

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New opportunity in the Jungle for Jaguars corridor

Buy an acre of tropical forest for £100

COUNTRY: BELIZE
LAND: 1,818 ACRES
TARGET: £181,800

The success of our Jungle for Jaguars appeal has unlocked an opportunity to buy an additional piece of forest to add to the corridor. And the good news is that it is available for purchase at our Buy an Acre price of £100 per acre.

The Jungle for Jaguars appeal in late 2018 was an incredible success. World Land Trust (WLT) supporters raised £600,000 for the purchase and protection of 8,154 acres in a vital wildlife corridor.

This land has now been purchased by our partner the Corozal Sustainable Future Initiative (CSFI), who manage several of the protected areas in this corridor.

The additional 1,818 acres would ensure safe passage for Jaguars on the eastern side of Shipstern Lagoon. Within this parcel of land live the Fireburn Community who have 187 acres of community lands. CSFI will be building trust and engagement with them as well as helping to develop sustainable livelihoods.

Buy an Acre

Donate online (worldlandtrust.org), by phone (01986 874422) or by post (using the enclosed donation form).



- 1,818 acres for purchase
- Shipstern Lagoon
- Protected areas
- Community land



Roseate Spoonbill

Shipstern Lagoon, with its mangrove islands and water bird colonies, is the largest inland lagoon in Belize. There have long been rumours of flamingos, but CSFI have never seen any sign of them in northern Belize. Could it be that they were confused with the lesser-known Roseate Spoonbills?

Like flamingos, these spectacular birds derive their bright colouration from a natural pink dye called canthaxanthin, which they obtain from feeding on brine shrimp and blue-green algae.



Buy an Acre

The past and present of WLT's landmark programme



WLT CEO John Burton describes the history of our Buy an Acre programme, which protects one acre for every £100 donation.

In 1989, WLT was launched as Programme for Belize to 'Buy an Acre', at a time when £25 would buy and protect one acre. Working primarily with Massachusetts Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy in the USA, funds were raised to save 110,000 acres of forest that was about to be logged.

30 years on, we are still buying acres. But the cost has risen, in some places dramatically. In Borneo, for instance, forest with the potential for oil palm can reach £10,000 an acre.

Some of our partners, however, work in countries where land can still be bought for £100 an acre. This enables us to save irreplaceable habitats to create strictly protected reserves, protected *in perpetuity* by our partners, relatively cheaply. Every donation to Buy an Acre helps save a whole ecosystem, not just big charismatic mammals like Jaguars, but the less 'glamorous' and equally important species of reptiles, insects and fungi as well. Even though the price of paradise has inevitably risen over the years, the Buy an Acre programme remains as important as ever, and I believe it is one of the best ways to demonstrate that your donations to WLT save real acres in real places.

In my thirty years with WLT I have yet to come across a more effective model for conserving wildlife. Thank you for your support, which makes it possible.



Early publicity for our first Buy an Acre project to save forest in Belize, 1989, when acres cost £25.

Success stories

2009



Guatemala
1,668 acres

Now named the Laguna Grande Sarstún Reserve, this is one of the most diverse projects ever supported by Buy an Acre. A supporter's £100 could have bought an acre of mangrove (feeding habitat for the Neotropical Otter), flooded forest (an important transition habitat) and mountain forest (containing hundreds of bird species).

Today Laguna Grande Sarstún is a haven for tropical wildlife, with 84 mammal species recorded including endangered species such as the Guatemalan Black Howler Monkey and Baird's Tapir.

2014



Bolivia
3,306 acres

Barba Azul reserve is part of an incredible savanna landscape that floods every year, creating forest islands of Motacu Palms. These islands are an oasis for wildlife, providing food for the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw and shelter for mammals such as Giant Anteater and Maned Wolf.

Without protection, these forest islands are threatened by logging, hunting and cattle ranching. In 2014 supporters to Buy an Acre funded 3,306 acres of a 14,827 acre extension which doubled the size of the reserve, now owned and protected by our partner Asociación Armonía.

2018



Mexico
2,106 acres

Sierra Gorda in central Mexico contains a matrix of different habitats with a broad spectrum of plant diversity.

In 2018, donations to Buy an Acre and Saving Mexico's Ancient Forests appeal, together with generous support from Puro Fairtrade Coffee, funded the purchase of 2,106 acres. Our partner Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG) was able to extend three reserves in Sierra Gorda: Canon del Fresno (ancient oak forests), Hoya Verde (cloud and temperate forest) and Cerro prieto Cerro la Luz (Oak, Cyprus, Juniper and Pine forests).

Good news from WLT partners around the world

Thanks to your support

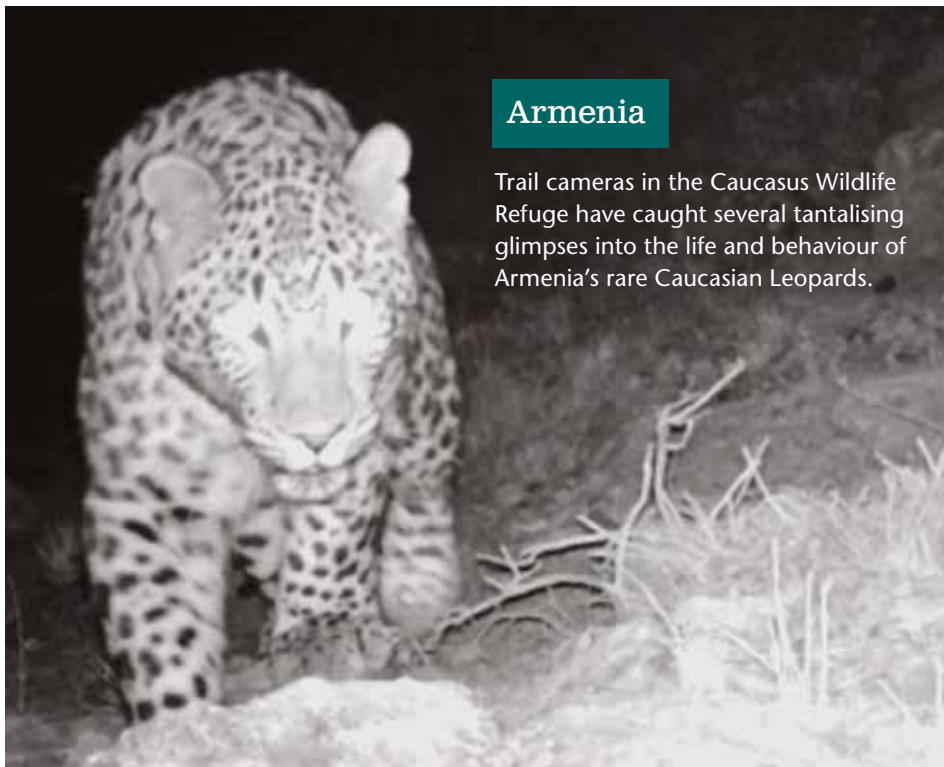
Ecuador

Thanks to a rapid response from WLT supporters, the £30,000 target to Save the Blue-throated Hillstar was reached in less than two weeks, breaking our fundraising record! This critically endangered hummingbird can only be found on a few remote mountaintops in the western Andes of southern Ecuador, which is threatened by metal mining.



Armenia

Trail cameras in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge have caught several tantalising glimpses into the life and behaviour of Armenia's rare Caucasian Leopards.



Tanzania

A 6,425 acre (2,600 hectare) reserve has been declared to protect Magombera, a rich forest teeming with unique and endangered wildlife such as the Udzungwa Red Colobus, supported by WLT and other partners.





Peru

The Ministry of Environment of Peru declared 43,380 acres (17,555 hectares) of cloud forest and páramo in the Tropical Andes as a protected area, under the care of the local community.



Mexico

A new trail camera survey in Sierra Gorda has confirmed the rumours of the return of Black Bears to Central Mexico, with the first true record of the species in 100 years.



Vietnam

Our partner Viet Nature has reported a decline in illegal logging incidents and the number of species hunted for the wildlife trade in Khe Nuoc Trong, with protection.



India

WLT has developed a new project with the Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) protecting old-growth forests home to Indian Pangolin, Rusty Spotted Cat, and Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog) in the Western Ghats of southern India.

Find out more

Visit the WLT website to find out more information about these and other projects, or sign up for our eBulletin to get monthly updates sent straight to your inbox.

worldlandtrust.org

Reporting from the field

Conservation challenges in Paraguay



The Atlantic Forest of San Rafael, Paraguay, is fragmented as a result of logging and agriculture (left). John Burton is presented with an award in recognition of WLT's support by Guyra Paraguay board members (above right). Alberto Yanosky, former Executive Director of Guyra Paraguay stands at the boundary of a newly created reserve at Cañada el Carmen in the Chaco (below right).

WLT Chief Executive John Burton visits the Atlantic Forest and Gran Chaco of Paraguay, encountering successes and challenges along the way.

My visit to Paraguay was packed full of meetings, both in the office and in the field. But as our partner Guyra Paraguay's founding Director Alberto Yanosky stepped down last year the priority was passing on our relationship to Alberto's successor, Jose Luis (Pepe) Cartes, and introducing WLT's Director of Conservation, Richard Cuthbert to Guyra's team. While we were there we also met with the Board of Directors of Guyra and I was presented with an award for all the help that WLT has provided over the past decade.

We then went to look at the progress of some of the WLT-funded reserves managed by Guyra.

Atlantic Forest of Paraguay

Richard and I visited San Rafael in the Atlantic Forest and got a comprehensive first-hand account of the serious problems faced there. There is huge pressure on the forests, mainly from illegal settlers and there have even been arson attacks on reforested areas. It really brought it home to me when I realised that for our partners to visit the area they needed a police escort. The only way to ensure

the effective protection of the forests here is to engage better with the local community so that they understand better the benefits for them and this is Guyra's focus. But it can be a long, slow process.

The 'Green Hell' that is the Chaco

After visiting the rainforest, I went to the other extreme and into a particularly arid region: the Gran Chaco. Driving more than 2,000 kms, we visited the most recent land purchase funded by WLT, at Cañada el Carmen. When we arrived at

the ranger station the temperature was 46°C - a bit cooler than the previous week. A priority was to discuss how we can make the reserve self sustaining. This is an extremely important reserve because of its biodiversity and direct connection with a similar sized NGO-managed reserve across the border in Bolivia, and also because the area is of major historical interest. It is the site of one of the major battles of the Chaco war in the 1930s, and contains numerous archaeological sites. It is also a region seeing some of the worst deforestation in the world.



● WLT-funded reserves managed by Guyra Paraguay



Repairing tropical forest in Vietnam

Charlie Langan, Senior Carbon Programme Manager at WLT, visits the Trust's largest Carbon Balanced project in Vietnam.

Six weeks after starting at WLT, I headed to Vietnam to meet our local partner, Viet Nature, and visit the Trust's largest carbon project. In my new role I need to become acquainted with the impressive portfolio of carbon projects being run by WLT's partners in Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Guatemala, and Vietnam.

The project in Vietnam is about conserving lowland tropical forests which historically covered much of this region but are now reduced to fragments. It aims to protect some amazing animal species like Sunda Pangolin, Saola (the forest unicorn) and Red-shanked Douc which we watched through telescopes across the valley from where the gibbons sing. A vital element of this project is about reducing illegal deforestation, and protecting the carbon stored in the trees from being released and contributing to climate change.

The development stage of the project has laid out the ground work required to understand the challenges to forest management that the project will have to address. This includes calculating the amount of carbon that is currently stored in the trees and making estimations of future gains if the forest can be better protected. University of Leeds supported research teams have been making repeat visits to the depths of the forest to measure trees and the impact of logging over a number of years. This information will support the local forest management board and provincial forest enforcement department to target illegal deforestation and ensure more sustainable forest management.

Local community engagement, as always, is paramount and opportunities are given for communities to voice their concerns, to influence and guide the development of the project so it can help address the pressing needs of the poor households surrounding the forest. As an environmental economist, I believe this is



at the heart of conservation challenges; nature does a good job of looking after itself, we just have to take care of the people by sustainably supporting communities in their own vision.

These surveys will be repeated periodically over the 30-year lifetime of the project, and this data will allow changes to carbon, biodiversity and communities to be measured. Monitoring the progress of the project towards its objectives, evaluate performance and adjusting the approach to forest protection will ensure that it works and continues to provide sustainable benefits. The carbon benefits can be used by our supporters to offset their emissions from flights and other activities through donating to WLT's Carbon Balanced Programme.



Charlie Langan (top, centre) and Viet Nature staff observing Red-shanked Doucs. The project area at Khe Nouc Trong consists of 48,000 acres (20,000 hectares) of Annamite Lowland Forest, home to the critically endangered Saola.

Become Carbon Balanced

WLT's Carbon Balanced Programme allows individuals and organisations to offset their unavoidable emissions through the protection and restoration of important wildlife habitats.

Use our Carbon Calculator to balance your carbon footprint:

worldlandtrust.org/carbon-calculator



worldlandtrust.org

Danjugan Island celebrates 25 years of conservation

106 acres of paradise for wildlife



While WLT is celebrating its 30th year, an important milestone for our third project is the 25th Anniversary of the saving of Danjugan Island. This tiny island lies in the Sulu

Sea, 3km west of Negros Island in the Visayan Island Group, and is surrounded by species rich coral reefs. Unlike the majority of smaller islands in the Philippines it still had most of its

original forest cover, providing habitat for local wildlife and also as a stopping off place for migratory birds in the southern hemisphere.

When we were alerted to the threat of further destruction WLT was quick to act. The Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, was established by Gerardo Ledesma to begin the process of raising funds to save the island. WLT co-operated with Coral Caye Conservation, who specialise in community based coral reef and tropical forest expeditions, and in 1995 the first of

their volunteer groups began surveying on land and sea.

Twenty five years later the island is a strictly protected nature reserve and the surrounding waters, once threatened and over-fished, are now a sanctuary for a dazzling array of marine life.

Since raising the funds for the purchase of Danjugan Island WLT has helped over the years with funds for mangrove restoration and for a Keeper of the Wild.



Camilla and Julian loved the murals painted by schoolchildren celebrating their wildlife and its conservation.

Cycling fundraisers visit Garo Hills, India

Camilla and Julian Read, the world-touring cyclists fundraising for WLT interviewed in the winter issue of WLT News, stopped by the steep forests of Garo Hills on their journey to New Zealand.

"You'd think that after cycling the equivalent of ten Mount Everests, catching a ride up to Nokrek National Park on the back of a motorbike would be a doddle... yet it was terrifying!" Camilla told WLT.

"But it was worth it. Up the steep mud track, through thick jungle, and at a

height of circa 1200m above sea level, we had the most incredible view of Garo Hills's lush green landscape.

"Walking around, you can see the community's passion for their local wildlife and determination to protect it in posters of gibbons and elephant murals painted by schoolchildren. Seeing the success of this community owned conservation approach was extremely heartening."

Wildlife Trust of India work with Garo communities to protect wildlife corridors connecting national parks for Indian Elephants and Western Hoolock Gibbon.



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