WLTNEWS



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Saving habitats Saving species since 1989 worldlandtrust.org



Saving the Amazonian Andes One of the richest habitats on Earth

TARGET: COUNTRY: LAND:

£165,000 ECUADOR 400 ACRES

The Amazonian Andes is the most species diverse region on the planet. This habitat is the transition between the rich rainforests of the Amazon basin and the alpine ecosystem across the Andes mountain range, and the wildlife there is the best of both.

However, only an estimated 25 per cent of this tropical habitat remains intact today.

WLT is aiming to raise $\pm 165,000$ to enable our partner Fundación Jocotoco to purchase and protect 400 acres of tropical forest in the Amazonian Andes, extending their existing reserve (Narupa, where WLT has already supported extensions through the Action Fund) and connecting it with the nearby national protected areas.

Urgent action needed

If we do not act now, a road will be built that would cut through this pristine tropical forest and prevent Fundación Jocotoco from creating a low elevation wildlife corridor between the protected areas.

These forests are currently untouched by human development and agriculture, and with your help, we will can ensure a safe home for an incredible array of species.



Donations to save the Amazonian Andes can be made by post, telephone or online

Where the rainforest meets the mountains



A wealth of wildlife



The wildlife here includes species that are characteristic of the Amazon Rainforest such as Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth (left), Harpy Eagle and Amazon Basin Tree Snake, as well as Andean species such as the Spectacled Bear and Andean Cock-ofthe-rock. This area also includes the very limited range of the endangered Puyo Giant Glass Frog.

Fundación Jocotoco's existing reserve, Narupa, has recorded 400 bird species including globally threatened species such as the Napo Sabrewing, Military Macaw, Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Cerulean Warbler (migratory) and Gray Tinamou.

You can save the habitat of all these species by donating to help us reach the $\pounds 165,000$ target for the Amazonian Andes Appeal today.

Land purchases saving threatened species Wildlife corridors and habitat 'buffers' provide urgent lifelines for threatened species

WLT's recent appeals (the Treasure Chest Appeal (see page 4), Saving Kinabatangan and the Elephant Corridor Appeal) have focused on raising funds as quickly as possible for urgent land purchases to benefit species under critical threats due to habitat destruction.

Saving Kinabatangan

Launched by Steve and Helen Backshall, WLT's Saving Kinabatangan Appeal raised a magnificent £300,000 in Spring 2017.

These funds have enabled WLT's partner Hutan to ensure the long lasting protection of the five critical areas of rainforest around the border of the Pangi Virgin Jungle Reserve.

As illustrated in the map below, these properties form a buffer to a protected area, called the Pangi Virgin Jungle Reserve. By establishing this buffer, Pangi's pristine rainforest is protected from harmful 'edge effects' such as increased poaching (as

plantations are more accessible to humans), soil erosion and increased wildfire risk.







Last year's Saving Kinabatangan appeal has successfully protected five properties on the border of the Pangi Virgin Jungle Reserve close to the Kinabatangan River (left), safeguarding the habitat of Bornean Orang-utans, Pygmy Elephants and Proboscis Monkeys (above)

Trail cameras record Bengal Tiger and Gaur in Mudahalli, India



Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) have begun recording wildlife using the Mudahalli Elephant Corridor with trail cameras, and on the first night they captured images of Bengal Tiger and Gaur.

Other wildlife surveys WTI have done since the Elephant Corridor Appeal was completed have recorded Indian Elephant, Barking Deer, Black-naped

Hare, Bonnet Macaque, Chital, Gaur, Sambar and Mongoose.



Spotlight on the Military Macaw



Macaws are well known for their brilliant colours and intelligence, and the Military Macaw is no exception.

Unfortunately, these combined characteristics have made macaws a target for the exotic pet trade. They have also suffered from deforestation across their range.

You can help protect Military Macaw habitat by donating to protect the Amazonian Andes or saving an acre of forest in Sierra Gorda (Mexico) for £100 through the Buy an Acre programme.



worldlandtrust.org

Success stories from Guatemala Thank you for helping us raise £625,000 to save Sierra Santa Cruz





'Golden wonder' salamander seen for the first time in 42 years

¡Se busca! 'Wanted: The Jackson's Climbing Salamander, last seen in 1975.'

These posters (right) were displayed in the western highlands of Guatemala to try and relocate the 'golden

wonder' salamander, which had not been seen since its discovery decades before.

WLT's partner in Guatemala, the Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation (FUNDAECO) established the Yal Unin Yul Witz Protected Nature Reserve in 2015 with support from WLT.

FUNDAECO's Amphibian Conservation coordinator Carlos Vásquez Almazán delivered various workshops with the rangers who patrolled the reserve about how to survey for amphibians and identify key species, especially the 'golden wonder'.

Not long after, one of the rangers, Tomás Ramos León, struck gold. "I had no doubts that it was the *Bolitoglossa jacksoni*, recognising its striking colours instantly," Tomás told WLT. He photographed it and sent the photos to Carlos, who confirmed that it was this incredibly rare species. "It's a beautiful story, and marks a promising future for the conservation of this special region," said Carlos. He hopes that the rediscovery will show the importance of conserving Guatemala's rich forests, and that further surveys to establish the species range and numbers will be carried out.



Treasure Chest Appeal has reached £625,000 target

After a tremendous effort from WLT supporters, £625,000 has now been raised to save 2,500 acres of tropical rainforest in the mountains of Sierra Santa Cruz.

The appeal began by raising £100,000 in the first week during Big Match Fortnight, and as the appeal continued it gathered more donations from a wide range of supporters, including eight year old Amie Frederick, who completed a minitriathlon and tripled her £100 fundraising target to help save Guatemala's rainforest.

Several artists also donated pieces inspired by Guatemala's wildlife, which were sold in WLT's online Christmas Art Auction. The Treasure Chest Appeal received significant contributions from cosmetic and beauty company The Body Shop and video game retailer Humble Bundle.

WLT would like to thank everyone who donated to save this rich habitat from deforestation.



WLT's Christmas Art Auction featured Terry McManus's Jaguar (top), Jess Smith's Chinamococh Stream Frog (below) and Carlos Lopez Chile 's Lesson's Motmot (left)

Jaguar sighted by Keepers of the Wild in Laguna Grande Nature Reserve

Rangers from Caribbean Guatemala have reported a rare sighting of the elusive Jaguar in a reserve close to Sierra Santa Cruz.

FUNDAECO ranger Ricardo Coc Caal, said "We hope this demonstrates the relevance of conserving the last remaining forests of Caribbean Guatemala. We are very grateful for the help that our international donors from WLT give us to protect it each day."

WLT helped FUNDAECO purchase Laguna Grande in 2009. *To see footage of this sighting, visit worldlandtrust.org*

You can ensure the long term protection of reserves such as Laguna Grande and Sierra Santa Cruz from ongoing threats such as illegal logging and poaching by funding Ricardo's work through the Keepers of the Wild programme. Donations can be made by post (using the enclosed donation form), by phone (WLT office: 01986 874422) or online at worldlandtrust.org



Action Fund Rapid responses to emergencies and conservation opportunities

Over the past few months, WLT's Action Fund has been quick to respond to land protection opportunities and emergencies brought to WLT's attention by overseas partners.

This includes land purchases for wildlife corridors in Honduras (six acres) and Ecuador (114 acres) and an extension to Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA, 151 acres), Brazil.

The Action Fund was also used when an opportunity arose for Fundación Jocotoco to plant approximately 80,000 trees in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian government provided the tree saplings but no funding to support the costs of planting them. The trees were successfully planted in Fundación Jocotoco's Buenaventura, Tapichalaca and Jorupe reserves.

There was also a situation that required immediate action in Armenia, when an unnatural fire burned through the Caucasus and our partner needed urgent financial support for the fire fighting efforts.

Become a WLT Friend

The monthly donations of WLT Friends to the Action Fund empower Top left: A ranger helping to extinguish the wildfire in the Caucasus Wildlife Reserve in Armenia. Below left: A view of the wetland and Atlantic Forest habitat of REGUA in Brazil. Top right: The cloud forest wildlife corridor in Ecuador. Below right: Fundación Jocotoco ranger monitoring tree planting in the Ecuadorian Andes

Speaking to supporters who have left WLT a gift in their will

WLT is benefiting from an increasing number of legacies, which provide a wonderful injection of funds for us to use for saving habitats and their wildlife in accordance with the instructions that have been left.

Many of the people who have left WLT gifts in their wills are supporters who we have known well and kept in contact with for years.

Kamila Zahno (pictured right) is one such supporter, who was first drawn to WLT through Sir David Attenborough's patronage. She subsequently became more involved and spoke at length with John Burton, WLT Founder CEO, about how she would like her legacy spent. She particularly values WLT's holistic approach

to conservation, especially after spending most of her career in the community and voluntary sector, saying

"World Land Trust isn't just about land. It isn't just about wildlife. It's about the whole - which does include people as well

"Kamila is inspired by the prospect that her legacy will leave a rich habitat safe for wildlife, adding "I love the idea that there will be a little part of me in South America and that my spirit will live on."

"For small charities like WLT, a small amount of money can achieve a lot: £50,000 could save 500 acres. I am really excited to think what my legacy can do,

Recently WLT has received two will gifts from supporters who were especially passionate in preserving floral diversity. These were directed to WLT's project in the Armenian Caucasus, one of the world's greatest botanical treasures

and how much forest it will save!" If you are writing your will we hope you will consider a gift to WLT's work. For a confidential conversation please contact John Burton by email (john.burton@worldlandtrust.org) or phone (01986 874422).





Buy an Acre Land saved in Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico



Argentina: Yungas Forest land purchase is complete

The El Pantanoso Reserve is now 100 per cent fully funded, ensuring the permanent protection of 10,900 acres through partner Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina's protection (FBA).

This reserve is a particularly rich habitat for mammals. As well as trail camera monitoring (see below), surveys have recorded tracks of Jaguar, Crab-eating Racoon, Capybara and Neotropical Otter.



A trail camera set up along a well used animal track captured images of Puma (top), Jaguarundi (centre) and Lowland Tapir (below)

Ecuador: 447 acres of rainforest saved

The Buy an Acre Ecuador fund has secured the purchase of 447 acres of Amazonian Foothill Forest in Nangaritza Valley by Naturaleza y Cultura Ecuador (NCE).

Charlotte Beckham, WLT Conservation Programmes Manager, explains the threat facing the forest without protection, "Like much of the region, this latest addition to the Nangaritza Reserve was threatened by improved access to the property which would inevitably result in increased logging and mining. Now, under protection of NCE we can ensure the areas remain protected for

the unique mix of species found in this valley."









Wildlife of the Nangaritza Valley: Smooth Machete Savane (top), Paradise Tanager (left) and Tiger-Leg Monkey Frog (above)

10,000 acres now saved in Mexico

WLT and Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG) have been working together for ten years and, following the most recent land purchase of 544 acres, a total of 10,000 acres of forest in Sierra Gorda has been saved.

Roberto Pedraza Ruiz, Head of GESG's Land Conservation Program, thanks WLT supporters, saying "Every acre of forest we have been able to save with WLT supporters has been an investment of the most important kind.

"Protecting the world's forests ensures we will have water, oxygen, climate





Sierra Gorda protects a wide variety of forest habitats, including ancient cloud forest with

old growth oaks

£100 to save one acre of rich forest

As the Argentina project is complete, and currently there are no opportunities to purchase land in Ecuador for the price of £100 per acre, the Buy an Acre programme is currently operating in the mountains of Sierra Gorda, Mexico. For every £100 donated, one acre of this incredibly diverse mountainous landscape will be secured



RANGER PROGRAMME WORLD LAND TRUST

Armonía

Meet the Keepers of the Wild The front lines of wildlife research and protection

Bolivia: Carlos Roca Atoyay



Barba Azul is becoming a top destination for wildlife tourists, with lucky visitors encountering Giant Anteater (pictured) and Maned Wolf

In the Barba Azul Reserve, Keeper of the Wild Carlos Roca Atoyay helps protect the Beni Savanna habitat of the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw. Recently he has been testing different ways of capturing adult macaws safely (such as using 'decoy' macaws, pictured right). The reason for capturing the macaws is to fit them with GPS trackers to provide valuable insight into their behaviour and key habitats for their survival.

Carlos recently observed 155 macaws roosting together in Barba Azul, the largest number recorded so far. WLT's Blue-throated Macaw Appeal last year raised funds to plant 1,000 *Vochysia* 'Aliso' trees around Barba Azul Reserve, a tree species which is an important food source for the

macaws when fruit is produced between September and October.

Honduras: Angie Rodriguez Rivera

Angie Rodriguez Rivera is a wildlife ranger in Güisayote area in Western Honduras protected by WLT's partner Ecological Association of San Marcos, Ocotepeque (AESMO). The mountainous reserve protects dozens of mountain streams which flow into two major rivers, providing vital water for communities in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

As well as reserve management, one of Angie's main responsibilities is helping local people understand the benefits of protecting this area for their water supply.

You can help fund the important work of wildlife rangers like Angie, Carlos and Rildo by supporting the Keepers of the Wild programme





AESMO's important work protecting watersheds in Western Honduras was recently recognised by a visit of the President of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández (pictured with Angie, inset)

Brazil: Rildo da Rosa

Rildo da Rosa is the Keeper of the Wild stationed in the Atlantic Forest habitat of Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), and, as he knows the reserve so well, he is one of the best guides for



visiting researchers. Rildo recently accompanied four researchers who were sampling leaf litter in the highest region of the reserve. It is hoped that analysing this leaf litter will shed some light on the species which lived on those slopes in the past.



Rildo often takes photographs of the species he encounters on patrol. Top: REGUA is home to one of the biggest troops of the Southern Muriqui in Rio de Janeiro (state). Below: Although he left it at a safe distance, Rildo was pleased to see a jararaca (pit viper) on one of REGUA's trails

Danjugan Island, Philippines WLT checks in on the 106 acre island saved 24 years ago



In 1992, WLT was alerted to the impending demise of a small island in the Philippines which was about to be cleared of its forests to make way for a leisure complex.

After witnessing the development and subsequent loss of biodiversity on neighbouring islands in the Visayas, WLT launched an appeal to raise £250,000 for the purchase of the island. By 2000, the 106 acre island and its surrounding coral reefs were secured and the ownership was vested in WLT's newly founded partner, the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PRRCFI), run by Gerry Ledesma.

24 years on, long since PRRCFI's work



on Danjugan became independent of WLT, the protection of the island has become a shining example of a conservation success story. Speaking to WLT, PRRCFI Executive Director Dave Albao reports that



A colony of 10,000 bats roosts in Danjugan's limestone caves



Danjugan has lived up to its potential as a haven for Visayan wildlife: White-breasted Sea Eagles still nest in the tallest tree, Giant Clams seeded by volunteers in 2000 are now a metre in size, the endangered Humphead Wrasse is now a regular sighting on dives and migrating Whale Sharks are seen passing by every year between November and March.

"If Danjugan hadn't been purchased, it would have been overexploited and may not have been able to support a habitat for wildlife"

Dave Albao, PRRCFI

"Visitors to Danjugan will immediately feel that the island's priority is wildlife conservation," Dave tells WLT. "There are no loud beach parties or crowds of tourists, so the island is clean and green. We have been featured a lot in magazines and other media for our work in conservation and environmental education."

PRRCFI's environmental education and sustainable livelihood programmes are now sustained by a small eco-tourism operation.

To find out more about this conservation success story, and how to plan a trip to Danjugan, visit www.danjuganisland.ph

bird

species



Habitats of Danjugan: Coral reefs (top) visited by marine megafauna such as Whale Sharks, tropical forests, white sand beaches used by nesting Hawksbill Turtles (centre) and mangroves (below)



WLT Alliance WLT and partners celebrate conservation milestones

WLT is part of an extraordinary network of talented conservationists around the globe: founders, scientists, rangers, speakers, communicators, and technicians, all working for WLT's partner organisations protecting their native wildlife and working hand in hand with local communities.

Here are some of the achievements and milestones of WLT partner organisations celebrated over the past few months.



20 years since the Jocotoco Antpitta was discovered

The discovery of the Jocotoco Antpitta by Dr Robert Ridgely inspired the creation of Fundación Jocotoco, which has spent the past two decades establishing eleven reserves safeguarding more than 43,000 acres in Ecuador. These reserves protect populations of more than 800 species of birds, including the endangered Jocotoco Antpitta (pictured).

JOCOTOCO



Wildlife Rescue Centre opened in Armenia

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) has opened a rescue centre in the Caucasus Wildlife Reserve (pictured). The centre is currently focused on rescuing and rehabilitating Brown Bears. FPWC's research has shown that more than 60 bears are held in captivity in Armenia, in terrible conditions.



Ecuador declares first new National Park in nine years

Ecuador has just declared the protection of the Río Negro - Sopladora National Park, 75,654 acres in the eastern Andes. Nature and Culture International (NCI) played a large part in the establishment of this reserve, securing community and political support. NCI's initial survey recorded 546 species of plants and animals, including three new amphibian species (new *Hyloscirtus* species pictured).



Guyra Paraguay celebrates 20 year anniversary



Armonía

Guyra Paraguay was founded to preserve Paraguay's incredible bird diversity in the face of widespread destruction of the country's wild habitats. WLT has worked with Guyra since 2004, funding land purchase and protection in the Chaco-Pantanal, Atlantic Forest and Dry Chaco. Together WLT and Guyra have also developed a world-leading REDD+ project to tackle the country's large scale deforestation.

Armonía releases Bolivia's first bird guide

Bolivia is one of the world's richest countries for bird diversity, and Armonía has just released its first field guide, featuring 1,435 bird species. It will soon be available outside Bolivia.



WLT welcomes new Director of Conservation

International conservationist Richard Cuthbert has joined the WLT team at the office in Halesworth, Suffolk.

He brings a wealth of experience from around the world after working with prestigious international organisations including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

"For me, it's a massively exciting opportunity," says Richard. "My primary interest has always been in conserving species and wild areas of land, and WLT does both- you cannot have species conservation without land conservation."

He is also familiar with the partnership model to ensure that conservation of land remains under the control of local communities. "The RSPB is part of the Birdlife partnership, and I worked with Birdlife partners in India, Nepal and UK Overseas Territories. It's all about supporting local partners in their work, because ultimately conservation in their country is much better in their hands than in ours."



Richard Cuthbert with local people on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea.

Inspiring fundraisers take on carbon neutral challenge

Team of four row across the Atlantic Ocean

Last year, a team entering the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge (TWAC) pledged to make their crossing carbon neutral with the help of WLT's Carbon Balanced programme. The TWAC is an unassisted ocean-rowing challenge where competing teams have to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean.

Team Carbon Zerow began by recording all travel, overnight stays and equipment purchased for the race. They reduced their emissions at every step by taking public transport and purchasing second-hand equipment rather than new, wherever possible. Red meat was also cut out of their diets during their training, due to the high carbon emissions associated with mammal livestock.

They set off from the Canary Islands in December, and arrived in the Caribbean 45 days later having battled sea sickness, tempests, broken centreboards, a failed autohelm and faulty watermaker. But their spirits never wavered, and now their voyage is over they are completing the final steps to making their passage carbon neutral.

Their unavoidable emissions will be offset through Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) from Guatemala (see page 11) purchased through WLT's Carbon Balanced programme.

You can calculate your emissions using WLT's footprint on the WLT website







Four man Atlantic rowing team Carbon Zerow pledged to make their crossing carbon neutral with the help of WLT's Carbon Balanced programme. They also used their 3,000 mile challenge to fundraise for WLT's other habitat protection and restoration projects

Nikwax and Páramo become the first to be PÁRAMO Carbon Balanced since birth



As both companies manufacture products used by outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wild areas, they have a strong commitment to conservation and environmental sustainability, and they matched contributions to Carbon Balanced with donations to the Action Fund



NIKWAX Nikwax Waterproofing and Páramo Directional Clothing have become the first companies in the world to

become Carbon Balanced since birth. Founded by WLT Trustee Nick Brown, Nikwax and Páramo had been supporting WLT since 2007 when they began the Carbon Balanced process by measuring and reducing the carbon emissions produced through their operations. The unavoidable emissions were then offset through WLT's Carbon Balanced project in Ecuador.

Nikwax and Páramo also calculated their historic emissions and last year completed their project to offset their operational emissions since their foundation 40 years ago.



Carbon offsetting Using habitat conservation to combat climate change

Once you have reduced your carbon footprint, there are inevitably still unavoidable emissions of greenhouse gases that cannot be cut out of your lifestyle. You can compensate for these by preventing the release of greenhouse gases elsewhere, a process called offsetting.

WLT's Carbon Balanced programme focuses on creating offsets by preventing deforestation or habitat degradation, which releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Unlike some other types of offset, these projects aim for conservation that will provide numerous benefits to wildlife and local communities as well.

But how do forests and other habitats actually reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and why does deforestation increase it?

How habitats store carbon

Living plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, a process that enables them to store the carbon as carbohydrates. When plants die in their natural habitat, much of this carbon is often retained by the soil. This storage of carbon by natural habitats rich in plant life such as forests and wetlands has given them the name 'carbon sinks'.

So long as these habitats remain intact, carbon is continually cycled and stored by trees, vegetation and soil. This is a crucial part of the solution to climate change.

How deforestation releases carbon

Land use change (converting natural habitats for human use such as agriculture or livestock farming, mainly through deforestation) is one of the biggest contributors of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere after the burning of fossil fuels.

Carbon dioxide is released from carbon sinks when habitats are degraded or cleared to make way for pastures, croplands or towns.

When trees are logged, they no longer continue to extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and the parts of the tree that cannot be used for timber are often burned or left to rot, which discharges their stored carbon back into the air as carbon dioxide.



New offset project in Caribbean Guatemala

WLT has recently added a new offsetting project to its Carbon Balanced portfolio. The REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast has been developed by WLT's Guatemalan partner FUNDAECO, in partnership with Althelia Climate Fund.

The project aims to protect approximately 316,000 acres of tropical rainforest (and other habitats) to prevent the area from being cleared to make way for cropland and pasture.

While locking up carbon, the project will also ensure a safe environment for a

wealth of Central American wildlife, with 145 recorded species of mammal (including Jaguar, Baird's Tapir and West Indian Manatee), 505 bird, 55 amphibian, 106 reptile and 1,825 plant. Supporting this project by offsetting will also have a positive impact on local communities. FUNDAECO has developed eco-tourism programmes run by local people, opened clinics specialising in women's health, and improved the sustainability of livelihoods such as fishing and agriculture.



The offsetting project in Caribbean Guatemala protects a wide diversity of species, including (from left) Yellow-headed Amazon, Baird's Tapir, West Indian Manatee, and Copan Brook Frog



Get started! Here are some rough calculations to give you an idea



Offsetting a 200 mile drive from Manchester to London: 0.06 tonnes of CO₂ = £0.90



Offsetting one person's direct return flight from London to Madrid: 0.40 tonnes of $CO_2 = \pounds 6$



Offsetting the average UK home's heating and electricity for one year: 1.51 tonnes of $CO_2 = \pounds 23$



Offsetting the average UK citizen's electricity, fuel and transport use for one year: 4.53 tonnes of $CO_2 = \pounds 68$

worldlandtrust.org



Visiting a WLT project The sights and sounds of REGUA



Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA) in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, protects and restores an incredible landscape of Atlantic Forest and Wetlands. Scott Guiver, a former WLT staff member, visited the reserve and describes one particularly memorable morning.

Stunning Blue Dacnis fed on fruit trees as bright-coloured Saffron Finches foraged on the ground below. A cloud of Cattle Egrets floated over their reflection in the water and, on the island, a beached gang of Capybara kept a wary eye on a sunbathing Broad-snouted Caiman. Unseen but certainly heard, a raucous soundtrack of Kiskadee and mechanical sounding White-bearded Manakin filled the air.

The light dimmed as I headed from the open wetlands into the trees. From the darker reaches of the forest floor I trod lightly, my eyes scanning for snakes on the ground and up into the tops of Cecropia trees, hopeful for a sighting of the most delightful of stagnant furballs- the Threetoed Sloth.

I stopped. A familiar instinct told me I wasn't alone, something I've felt often enough to have learned to trust. I noticed two faces in the leaves that had gradually turned to look at me. A mother sloth with her contented looking youngster clinging to her underside. My emotions suitably stirred, I sat on the ground and watched them going unhurriedly about their business. A wonderful moment in the Atlantic Forest.



An oasis of life: Brassy-breasted Tanager (top left), Capybara (bottom left) and Three-toed Sloth mother and baby (right). WLT supports conservation in REGUA with land purchases funded by the Action Fund, a ranger's work through Keepers of the Wild and reforestation through Plant a Tree. You can make a donation to one of these programmes by post (using the enclosed donation form), by phone or online

The next WLT News comes out in <u>September</u> - is that too long to wait?

Not to worry! WLT's digital newsletter is emailed out every month, with information about ongoing projects and latest appeals, as well as footage and photos from the habitats our supporters have saved. Sign up on the WLT website or fill in the enclosed form 'Keeping in touch'.



You can also follow World Land Trust on social media, where photos, footage and news stories from WLT projects are posted every week.

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camera images (Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina), Ecuador landscape (Nigel Simpson), snake (Jaime Culebras/Tropical Herping.com), tanager (NCE), frog (James Muchmore/Tropical Herping.com), oak woodland (Roberto Pedraza Ruiz); Page 7: anteater (Tjalle Boorsma), Carlos (Oscar Yabeta), Angie (AESMO), waterfall (AESMO/V. Saravia), Rildo (REGUA), mureiol, and snake (Rildo da Rosa); Page 8: Clownfish (Micaela Trebol), wratsee (Laura Wolf), Danjugan (PRRCFI), eagle (PRRCFI), bat cave (PRRCFI),



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coral reef (Micaela Trebol), beach (Ron Coe), mangrove (Gerry Ledesma); Page 9: Antpitta (Patty McGann), rescue centre (FPWC), frog (Eduardo Toral-Contreras), Chaco-Pantanal (Guyra Paraguay), Richard images (Richard Cuthbert); Page 10: boat (Atlantic Campaigns), team (TWAC/Ben Duffy), mountain landscape (Páramo); Page 11: Coast (FUNDAECO), parrot (Charles Patrick Ewing), tapir (Bernard Dupont), manatee (Keith Ramos), frog (Robin Moore); Page 12: REGUA animals (Scott Guiver).

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