

ISSUE No. 64 WINTER 2019

**Saving habitats
Saving species
since 1989**

worldlandtrust.org



Inside this issue:

- Scorched Earth to Forest Haven - update on Vietnam Appeal
- Buy an Acre for £100 in Mexico and Zambia
- Good news for Armenia's threatened leopards
- Sir David Attenborough answers the question "What can I do?"

Big Match Fortnight success

3-17 October 2019

RAISED £523,000 to restore forests in Vietnam



TARGET: £575,000
CURRENT TOTAL: £523,000
LEFT TO RAISE: £52,000
KEY SPECIES:

RED SHANKED DOUC
 PYGMY SLOW LORIS
 BENGAL SLOW LORIS
 SAOLA ANTELOPE
 SUNDA PANGOLIN
 SUN BEAR
 ASIAN BLACK BEAR
 EDWARD'S PHEASANT
 BOURRET'S BOX TURTLE



This year's Big Match Fortnight was a huge success and so far we have raised **more than 90 per cent** of the total needed to accomplish this project. Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal so generously. Thank you also to supporters of the Match Fund who ensured that all donations were matched pound for pound during the two weeks.

What your donation means

Funds raised are already enabling our partner, Viet Nature, to begin clearing the land of the invasive African grass that spread across the war-ravaged hillsides, following the denuding of Vietnam's tropical forests.

Phase One of the project will see 120,000 trees being planted across 74 acres in Huong Lap and 172 acres in Huong Linh as a first step towards Viet Nature's aim of restoring 3,500 acres of land destroyed by Agent Orange in Bac Huong Hoa Nature Reserve.

Deforestation is responsible for 20 per cent of Earth's greenhouse gases but reforestation can turn that around by stabilising rising temperatures and helping combat climate change. You can play a crucial role in establishing these forests.

Pygmy Slow Loris feeding on a giant stick insect

One of the animals to succumb to habitat loss in Vietnam is the Pygmy Slow Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*). Its forest home was targeted through large-scale burning, clearing and defoliation during and after the Vietnam war, and today extensive hunting for traditional medicines, food and collection for the pet trade continues to threaten their survival. They are listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and classed as Vulnerable on IUCN's Red List. WLT's latest appeal will help restore their forest home and keep them safe.

Some things you may not know about slow lorises

- They do not leap or jump.
- They have a toxic bite which comes from licking a toxic secretion from glands on the inside of its elbows.
- The teeth in the lower jaw form a comb-like structure called a toothcomb that is used for scraping resin from tree bark, edible gum being one of their favourite foods.

All in all an extraordinary animal that we must save at all costs.

TREE PLANTING - a solution to the climate crisis

Natural climate solutions have been high on the agenda this year and tree planting is up there at the forefront of ways to take positive climate action. WLT has funded our overseas conservation partners to plant more than two million native trees across the world to date. These trees will become the forests of the future, adding protected habitat in and around WLT-funded reserves.

Every tree helps

Every sapling you're funding as part of this project will begin to lock away carbon dioxide as it grows – this is a lifetime of conservation action, from the moment it is planted. As the trees grow they will help stabilise soil to recreate the original forest floor. And as the canopy is restored Vietnam's displaced and threatened species can take up a forever home. There are major benefits for people too who will be assured cleaner water and fresh air.

On track to create one of the largest areas of Annamite rainforest in Vietnam

To restore Vietnam's lost forests, a mix of pioneer and slow-growing hardwood tree species will be used. Of the 12 species selected, 11 are native to Bac Huong Hoa Nature Reserve and Quang Tri Province. Only *Vernicia montana* is not native to the reserve, though it is native to Vietnam, and is now widely grown in Quang Tri Province for its oil and wood. It has been selected as a supporting species for this project because it is easy to grow.

Help us reach our target by the end of the year

There's still time to help Vietnam's forest creatures find a new home. Donate by post (donation form enclosed), by phone (01986 874422) or online worldlandtrust.org



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SCORCHED EARTH TO FOREST HAVEN

RESTORING VIETNAM'S
TROPICAL FORESTS

Some of the species being planted include:





Erythrophleum fordii, a valuable Rosewood species also known as iron-wood, is indigenous to the tropical zones of Vietnam, Laos, and South China. The natural forests have been heavily fragmented, and it is now listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List. Its range in Vietnam extends from the border with China to Quang Nam-Da Nang Province. Because of demand for this valuable timber, plantations were established in the 1950s to increase supplies but demands still exceed what can be sustainably harvested.

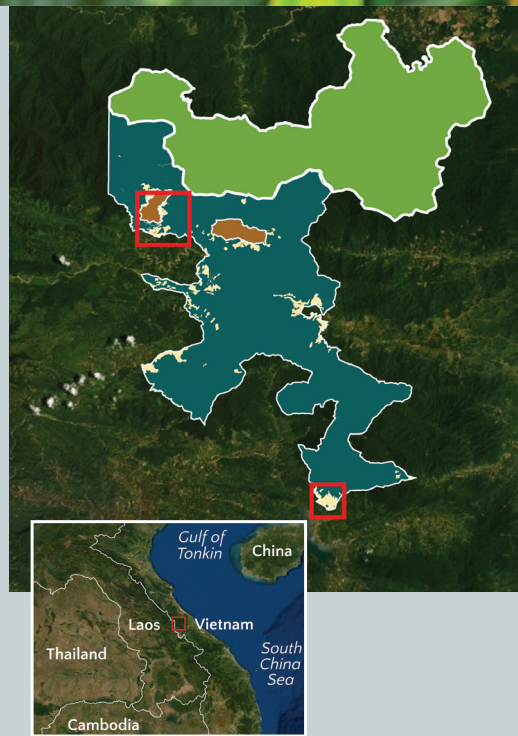
Liquidambar formosana, commonly known as Chinese Sweet Gum or Formosan Gum is a valuable tropical forest tree native to China, Laos and Vietnam. It has a wide distribution and occurs in several protected areas. While not facing major threat it is vulnerable to general deforestation in Vietnam. The health properties attributed to this tree are many fold - the leaves and roots are used in various cancer treatments and the bark is used in the treatment of skin diseases. The fruits also have medicinal properties being used for arthritis and lumbago. The resin from the trunk and stems is used to promote blood circulation and pain relief. Needless to say this is an important food

The new tree restoration areas are marked in red squares on the adjacent map.

Khe Nuoc Trong Forest Reserve covers 50,000 acres (20,000 hectares) of Annamite Lowland Forest and is part of a larger 204,000 acres (82,700 hectares) area which extends into the neighbouring Quang Tri Province.

As well as its importance for biodiversity, the forest has been designated as a Watershed Protection Forest and provides clean water to local communities.

-  Location of reforestation areas
-  Khe Nuoc Trong Forest Reserve
-  Bac Huong Hoa Nature Reserve
-  Community land



tree for a wide range of wildlife.

Bischofia javanica, also known as Bishopwood, is native to Asia and Oceania. Growing up to 35 metres tall, it provides timber for construction and handicrafts. It is also harvested for charcoal and fuelwood. Also, like *Liquidambar formosana*, parts of the plant have medicinal properties.

As the trees grow they will be quickly found by wildlife such as Pig-tailed Macaques, civets and mouse deer who will come to feed on the fruit and seeds. Tree planting carried out by WLT and our partners is a win-win situation. Trees act as carbon sinks to combat climate change, local communities are actively involved and forest cover is restored.



Water Dragon at home in Vietnam

The Indochinese Water Dragon (*Physignathus cocincinus*) occurs in Khe Nuoc Trong Forest Reserve. This large lizard can grow up to 1 metre (3.3 feet) and live up to 15 years. Their stunning colouration ranges across all shades of green and turquoise to purple, and some individuals have an orange stomach. They use their long tail, which can be more than two-thirds of the body length, as a weapon and for balance as they swim.

A study, carried out by Viet Nature, with funds provided by WLT, took place in three areas of the forest, located in Quang Binh province. This region is known for its high diversity of reptiles

and amphibians due to its karst (limestone) landscape.

Three species new to the area were discovered: Bow-fingered Gecko (*Cyrtodactylus pseudoquadrivirgatus*), Square-headed Cat Snake (*Boiga kraepelini*) and *Quasipaa verrucospinosa*, a species of spiny frog, classified as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List. The study recorded 31 species of reptiles and 26 species of amphibians, 10 of which are found on the IUCN Red List.

The photograph on the left was taken by conservationists, author and broadcaster, Mark Carwardine, who is a WLT Council member.

Action in WLT-funded reserves

News from our partners

Keepers of the Wild exchange



Keepers of the Wild are the eyes, ears and voice of the reserves

Ranger, Angie Rodriguez, from WLT's Honduran partner, AESMO was invited, along with colleagues, to carry out an internship with FUNDAECO staff in Guatemala.

The photograph shows her with Nicolas Alonzo Ventura (left) and Victoriano Lopez, park rangers provided by the municipality of Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. During the internship they shared valuable experiences at field and office level. AESMO and FUNDAECO have a co-operative relationship with an aim of strengthening security of biodiversity and water conservation being carried out in three UNESCO biosphere reserves in Honduras and Guatemala.

HONDURAS – AESMO has been a WLT partner since 2007. WLT has funded land purchase to better protect areas in and around Güisayote and Volcán Pacayita Biological Reserves.

GUATEMALA – FUNDAECO has been a partner of WLT since 2008. WLT raised funds through BIG MATCH FORTNIGHT in 2017 for the Treasure Chest Appeal to protect the Santa Cruz mountain range.

WLT also works with FUNDAECO on several other land purchase and Carbon Balanced projects, and also with community projects including Women for Biodiversity.

BUY AN ACRE - £100 to save One Acre in Mexico and Zambia

Saving the Jaguars of Sonora

Extending Jaguar protection: Jaguar del Norte Reserve in Mexico.

Habitat loss, hunting and conflicts with livestock have all resulted in the decline of Jaguar populations, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the US-Mexico borderlands where, within the last 100 years, the Jaguar has been virtually eliminated.

Helping our partner, Naturalia, to purchase 3,953 acres (1,600 hectares) will extend the Jaguar del Norte Reserve. This wilderness of deep canyons, upland peaks and mountain valleys, form one of the largest unbroken expanses of wildlife habitat in northern Mexico. It safeguards endangered species including Ocelot, Neotropical Otter and Military Macaw. It is also visited by 70 species of migratory birds.

More land for Black Lechwe, Lions and Elephants in Zambia

In Zambia, WLT partners with Kasanka Trust which exists to protect Kasanka National Park, one of Zambia's smallest national parks. Since its foundation the Kasanka Trust has also become responsible for the management of Lavushi Manda National Park and Shoebill Island Camp in the Bangweulu Wetlands.

Through the Buy an Acre programme, WLT is helping Kasanka Trust to purchase an additional 941 acres (381 hectares) to expand the buffer zone for Kasanka National Park and Bangweulu Wetlands. As well as the Black Lechwe, wildlife that will benefit from this added protection include, Sitatunga, Roan and Sable Antelope, Hartebeest, Warthog, Bushpig, Common Duiker and Yellow Baboon. African Elephant and Lion also occur as well as some 500 species of birds.



Buy an Acre

Save one acre for £100 (half an acre for £50 or quarter of an acre for £25) in Mexico and Zambia.

You can also make your donation using the form enclosed, or make a telephone donation (WLT office: 01986 874422). You can also donate online:

worldlandtrust.org

Update from the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge



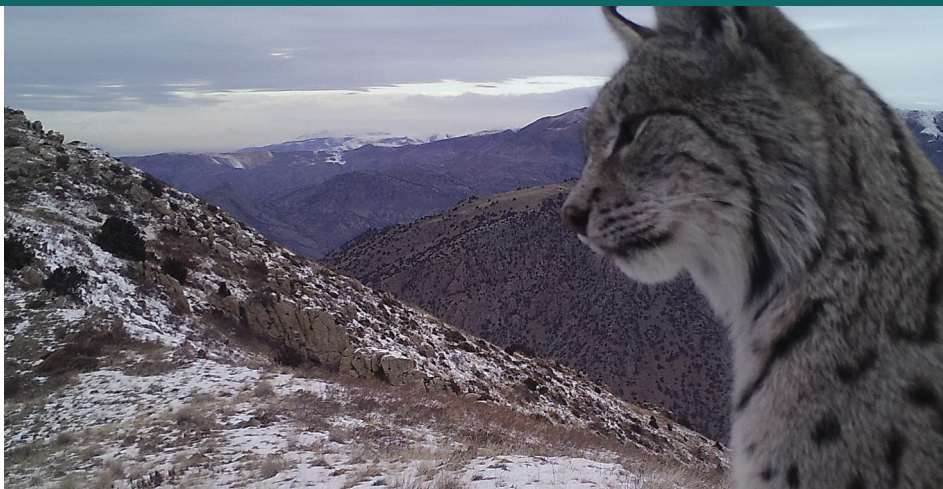
In early November John Burton, founder of WLT and now Chief Ambassador, visited Armenia, and WLT's local partner, FPWC. He was joined by Andrew von Preussen (a former WLT Trustee) and his award-winning architect daughter, Tanya von Preussen, who had offered support for conservation in Armenia.

John reports:

As always we were welcomed in traditional Armenian ways - the food at this time of year is amazing, with all the fresh and dried fruits and nuts and berries as well as cheeses and breads, for which the area is famed. The landscape may have lacked the lush greenness, and spectacular array of flowering plants of my earlier visits, but the mountains with their numerous gorges were as spectacular as ever.

Bezoar Goats, Syrian Brown Bear

On the very first day we had wonderful views of a flock of around 30 Bezoar Goats, and came across a very fresh footprint of a bear. The ranger estimated that this was a young bear of two years old or so. Other interesting wildlife included close up views of Lammergeier and the arrival of a brief 'invasion' of Black-throated Thrushes - a rare sight in that part of the world.



The Eurasian Lynx was once relatively common in all of Europe but, by the middle of the 19th century, it had disappeared from most countries in Central and Western Europe and is now rare across its range. This lynx was captured on trail camera in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge.

Much of the visit (as is normally the case) was taken up with meetings with local officials, but in Armenia several of the village mayors have become so enthused with the conservation activities that have been introduced into their communities by FPWC that we were treated as family. To me, one of the most impressive aspects of what WLT funding has achieved in Armenia, is not simply the protection of the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, but the fact that whole communities are now involved and seeing benefits. FPWC supports communities in marketing locally gathered dried fruits, nuts, honey and herbs, as well as ecotourism.

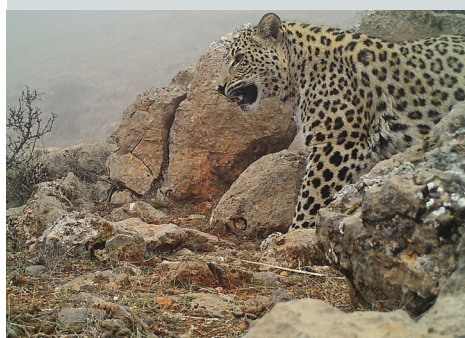
Protecting 'Leopard Gorge'

Armenian ranger, Boris Vanyan, is one of the **Keepers of the Wild** funded through WLT by The Body Shop. He patrols part of the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge in Ararat region which is known locally as Leopard Canyon. It is an amazing, rugged landscape described in Armenia literature, notably writings by William Saroyan.

Boris grew up in a nearby village and his forefathers surely hunted leopard here. But today Boris simply captures leopards on trail camera, and during 2019 he has recorded 10 sightings. Videos, photos, tracks – all proving the safe existence of the animal on its historic land. The leopard still lives in his canyon, just like Boris, alert to track his movements and keep him safe from hunters.

Our three-legged leopard is alive and well and travelling hundreds of kilometres!

It was at our last dinner that I was told some very exciting news. Supporters in the early days of this project will recall



that one of the first Caucasian Leopards to be filmed was missing part of a back leg. This injury was thought to be the result of a landmine on the border with Azerbaijan. The leopard was later captured on trail camera 150 kms away some 18 months later. But now I was told that it had been camera trapped once again but this time in Iran. This is a truly remarkable feat (on only three feet!) Photographs showed that it was healthy and perfectly able to fend for itself.

What lovely news.

Rangers like Boris in Armenia ensure rare and threatened species are protected from all the many threats they face. All the rangers working with WLT's overseas partners are determined and dedicated. A vital part of their work is to engage local communities which has very successfully been achieved in Armenia.

worldlandtrust.org/appeals/keepers-of-the-wild

Report from Peru by WLT CEO, Jonathan Barnard



Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Protected Areas (CAPLAC 3)

14-17 October 2019 - Lima, Peru

My first two months at WLT have been packed and the more I learn the more I am impressed by what our partners are able to achieve. With a 30 year history and a portfolio of dozens of urgent funding commitments, opportunities and challenges there is always plenty to learn. But I'm pleased to say I am enjoying every minute of it.

When leading the day-to-day running of a charity I am only too aware that sometimes it can be hard to step back and assess where you are. Two months into being CEO was perfect timing for me to have an opportunity to meet with the leaders and senior staff of 12 of WLT's overseas conservation NGO partners in person. And also to meet other inspiring conservation NGOs who could become partners in the future. I was in Peru for a congress which was initiated ten years ago by the

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and this was the third of its meetings.

The aim of the congress is to promote best management of protected areas. The theme at this congress was **"Solutions for well-being and sustainable development."** And, to be expected, much of the discussion related to the climate crisis and how its effects can be mitigated by protected areas.

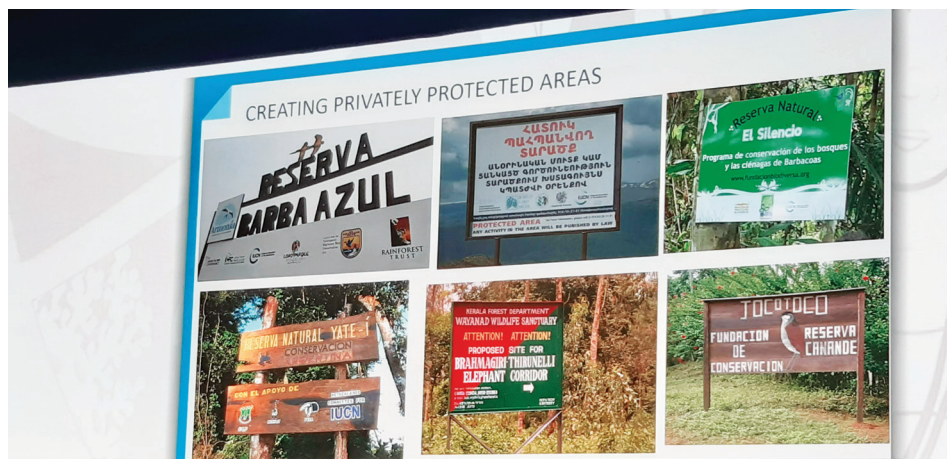
The forum gives opportunities for sharing experiences, academic research, and debate on public policies as well as for government authorities, multilateral organisations, leaders of local, traditional and indigenous communities and the private sector to present their suggested approaches to put before the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020.

WLT partner organisations represented at the congress were:

- AESMO (Honduras)
- Fundación Biodiversa Colombia
- Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina
- Fundación Guanacas Bosques de niebla (Colombia)
- Fundación Natura Bolivia
- FUNDAECO (Guatemala)
- Guyra Paraguay
- Nativa Bolivia
- Naturalesa y Cultura Ecuador
- Naturalesa y Cultura Peru
- Provita (Venezuela)
- IUCN Netherlands

Presentations were lively and inspirational and WLT's Conservation Programmes Manager, Charlotte Beckham, gave a very well received overview on the shared work being carried out by WLT and IUCN Netherlands with whom we have worked closely for many years.

As always, conversations outside the meeting are where some of the most innovative ideas are hatched and this was the case in Peru. I am particularly excited about cross-boundary conservation initiatives and how partners can work together to have greater impact. For instance in the Gran Chaco, South America's largest tropical dry forest which is one of the most threatened ecoregions worldwide. Our Paraguayan, Bolivian and Argentinian partners got together to discuss further potential for cross country protection to help protect more habitat for the Chaco's threatened wildlife. Inspirational and motivating indeed.



WLT's Charlotte Beckham (left) gave a presentation on WLT and IUCN NL conservation work and how supporting relatively small areas can have big conservation impact. She is joined here on stage by Liliana Jauregui and Marc Hoogeslag (far right) from IUCN Netherlands. Seated between them is Alberto Yanosky, acclaimed conservationist and former Director of Guyra Paraguay.

Find out more

Visit the WLT website to find out more about all our activities. Sign up for our eBulletin to get monthly updates sent straight to your inbox.

worldlandtrust.org

Climate Crisis: Resolve for a new decade

What can I do?



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Although we've known for a long time that the natural world is at risk, nothing brought into focus the crisis quite as sharply as Sir David Attenborough's *Climate Change – The Facts* (BBC One) shown earlier this year.

Emotions ran high, and a good deal of panic. Some were galvanized into action to ask, 'right, what can I do?' while others saw the devastating realities and asked, 'what is the point?'

That point is, as Sir David has continued to re-emphasize this year, that together we absolutely can protect the natural world - species, humans, habitats and resources - if we choose to.

"We're running out of time but there's still hope"

"I truly believe", said Sir David, "that together we can bring about the transformative change that is needed.

He cited making homes more energy efficient and reducing meat and dairy consumption as quick actions, but the key message is not about what changes individuals can make on their own, but how by grouping together individuals can force widespread change.

WLT's policy of working with its network of conservation partners means that we can punch well above our weight - conservation projects across the world are testimony to that. **Acres protected. Trees planted. Rangers funded.** These steps, while certainly not saving the world are successfully safeguarding precious habitats and all that lives there.

WLT will always strive to identify opportunities to combat climate change and together we can do so much more. Whether you choose to Carbon Balance your unavoidable carbon emissions, save acres, fund rangers or plant trees, it's a joint effort that really can and does make a difference.



Our patron Sir David Attenborough has made a short film especially for WLT supporters.

The film poses the question on everyone's lips "What can I, as an individual, do?" He offers the individual an opportunity to make a difference by unlocking a generation of change makers. Sir David describes why he believes that supporting WLT in its mission to save land to save species is an important means by which individual action can achieve an impact. Watch the short film on World Land Trust's YouTube channel.



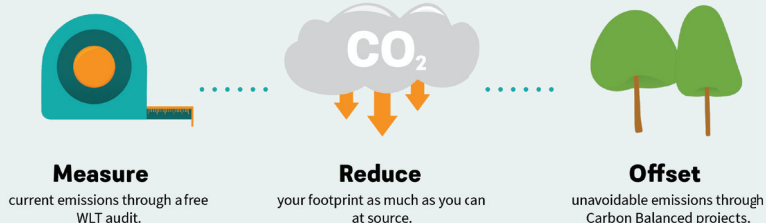
CARBON BALANCED

A Guide for Organisations

WHAT IS CARBON BALANCED?

WLT's Carbon Balanced programme is supported by companies who wish to offset their unavoidable carbon emissions and address climate change. Carbon Balanced raises money from carbon offsetting to fund projects and activities that benefit the climate.

THE 3 STEP PROCESS



WLT's Carbon Balanced projects are offsetting CO₂ emissions in Ecuador (tropical forest), Guatemala (Caribbean coast), Paraguay (Atlantic Forest and Chaco Pantanal), Vietnam (Annamite Lowland Forest). For more information please visit

worldlandtrust.org/carbon-balanced
or contact corporate@worldlandtrust.org

Let us help your company

Your business or company can take positive action and offset its unavoidable carbon emissions through WLT's Carbon Balanced programme.

- Organisations can voluntarily offset their emissions through protection and restoration of threatened habitats
- By protecting habitats that are under imminent threat of destruction, we prevent the release of the CO₂ stored within them into the atmosphere.
- Where habitats are already degraded we allow them to recover and regrow absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere as they do so, creating an 'offset'

In order to assess your organisation's emissions we ask you to fill in a simple audit submission form, which WLT will then use to estimate your footprint.

Celebrating an inspirational woman

New WLT film:

Protecting the Heart of Mexico



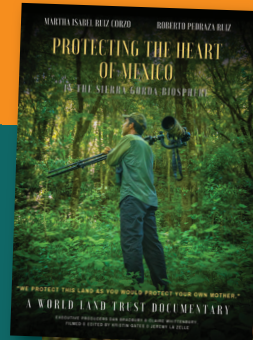
Protecting the Heart of Mexico is a new film celebrating 30 years of WLT's conservation success. It made its debut during Climate Week in New York, in September.

The film focuses on the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve in Mexico and the work being carried out by WLT Partner, Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG) which was pioneered by Martha Isabel Ruiz Corzo, known affectionately across the world as 'Pati'.

In 1986, Pati founded GESG with a vision that represented a unique model of community 'conservation economy'. Her goal was to create a sustainable way of living for the more than 120,000 people living inside the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. She did this, and still does, particularly by empowering the historically-marginalised female population of the region.

The film follows the story of Pati and

Pati Corzo has taken on both the Mexican Government and big corporations to stop the exploitation of the Sierra Gorda region. She has the ability to inspire pretty much everyone that crosses her path. With an imposing charisma, she is one of the most respected environmental leaders of Latin America who turns words into action.



her son, Roberto Pedraza Ruiz, who heads up GESG's Land for Conservation Programme. Through shared hope and determination they are helping protect the 946,000 acres (383,000 hectares)

of the biosphere reserve, conserving 15 different habitats including evergreen and deciduous tropical forest, shrubs and cacti, oak, pine and cloud forests in the Sierra Gorda mountains.

Watch the film here:
worldlandtrust.org/heart-of-mexico



**Your support is catching.
 Commit to conservation by
 becoming a WLT Friend**

Regular charitable gifting is inspirational, and often leads to new donors – your friends and family – getting involved too. As hundreds of thousands of people across the world come together in united action for change, there's never been a better time to make your commitment to the world's endangered habitats and their wildlife.



**Monthly giving is a
 powerful statement**

At a time when using our voice is of utmost importance, by supporting WLT and our partners you will become part of a global community, inspiring others to work together with a shared determination: to bring about change and protect the world around us.

WLT Friends donations are used for our most urgent projects. Friends regular contributions are tremendously important because knowing funds have been pledged in advance enables us to plan further land purchase and conservation projects, and also respond quickly with emergency funds.

worldlandtrust.org/supporting/friends



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