

ISSUE No. 65 SPRING 2020

**Saving habitats
Saving species
since 1989**

worldlandtrust.org



Inside this issue:

- Barbacoas' Forests & Wetlands, Colombia
- Protecting the 'Garó Green Spine' in India
- Tree planting success in Brazil
- Conservation against the odds in Venezuela



An urgent opportunity for us in Colombia

COUNTRY: COLOMBIA
LAND: 642 ACRES
TARGET: £295,000
CURRENT TOTAL: £140,000
LEFT TO RAISE: £155,000
KEY SPECIES:
 BROWN SPIDER MONKEY
 LOWLAND TAPIR
 JAGUAR
 WHITE-FOOTED TAMARIN
 WEST INDIAN MANATEE
 MAGDALENA RIVER TURTLE
 BLUE-BILLED CURASSOW



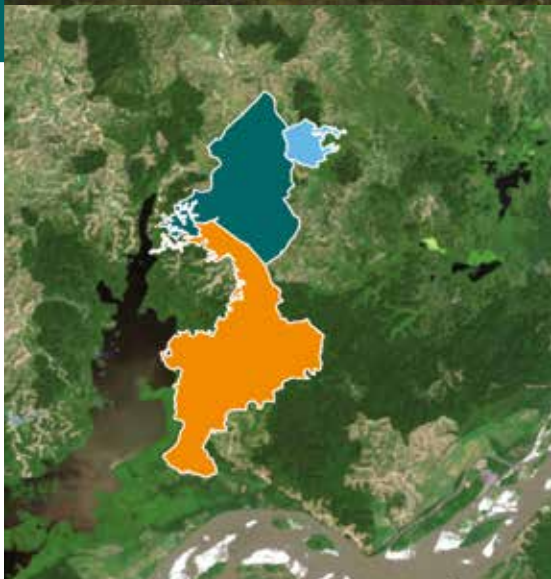
Barbacoas' Forests & Wetlands

Habitat: Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena forest

Barbacoas' Forests and Wetlands are part of a mega-diverse, highly threatened, eco-region extending from eastern Panama to the lower Magdalena Valley of Colombia.

Help us save this unique habitat and its wildlife.

This unique mosaic of habitats has lost 90 per cent of its original forests and this urgent project focuses on the most extensive and best preserved forest patches in the whole region. The map on the right shows land already protected with help from WLT, and the area in orange is the proposed new purchase.



- El Silencio Reserve
- SAVING BARBACOAS' FORESTS AND WETLANDS
- Rancho Verde 2018 Expansion



The challenge

WLT's challenge is to raise a total of £295,000 to purchase and protect 642 acres (260 hectares) to extend our partner, Fundación Biodiversa Colombia's (FBC) Rancho Verde Reserve.

Important for birds: Great Green Macaws soar overhead, the last of Colombia's Blue-billed Curassows have a safe haven here, and migratory birds from North America arrive annually, adding to the bird species that rely on this watershed and its surrounding forests for survival.

Donate to save Barbacoas

Take action now to secure the future of the fragile and unique mosaic of habitats of the Barbacoas, home to an incredible range of species, whose survival is at risk.

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

“ It is clear that the preservation of this unspoiled landscape and its exceptional biodiversity is critical. With your generous support we can protect this wonderful region and its endangered and endemic species, ensuring their survival. Our partner, FBC, have an impressive track record of conservation projects, and under their management I am confident that the Barbacoas' Forests and Wetlands will flourish. ”

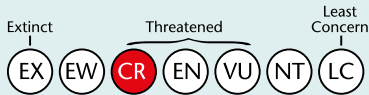
Jonathan Barnard
CEO, WLT

Saving threatened wildlife of Barbacoas

Brown Spider Monkey, Lowland Tapir and West Indian Manatee, and birds on the brink of extinction

Brown Spider Monkey

Ateles hybridus



Populations of Brown Spider Monkeys are estimated to have decreased by 80 per cent over the last few decades, and recent satellite images show more than 30 per cent habitat loss on the Atlantic coast of Colombia alone. The status of Critically Endangered means that these species have at least a 20 per cent chance of going extinct in the wild within 20 years, or 5 of their generations.



Lowland Tapir

Tapirus terrestris

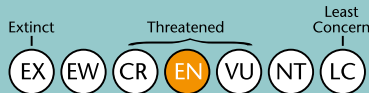


Also known as the South American Tapir, Brazilian Tapir and Maned Tapir, it is one of the four species of the tapir family, along with the Mountain Tapir, Baird's Tapir and Malayan Tapir. The Lowland Tapir is the largest surviving native terrestrial mammal in South America. Its major threat comes from habitat loss due to deforestation, hunting for meat and competition with domestic livestock.



West Indian Manatee

subspecies *Trichechus manatus manatus*



The Barbacoas wetlands and forest are strategically important for the survival of this subspecies of the West Indian Manatee. Their habitat includes wetlands along the middle and low Magdalena river valley. Threats include accidental killings through entanglement with fishing nets and ongoing deterioration of its habitat due to continued deforestation, the increase in Water Buffalo ranching and intensive use of pesticides and herbicides.



Why we must save the Barbacoas in the Valley of Magic

Wherever habitat is lost, there follows the loss of species, and the Magdalena Valley is no exception. For endemic species such as the Blue-billed Curassow, already extinct across 89 per cent of its original range, the remaining forest is essential for their survival.

Compounding the depletion of the valley's forests by cattle ranchers is the recent influx of industrial oil palm plantations and the cascade of pollution from legal and illegal mining operations.

The devastating deforestation and degradation has taken its toll on its biodiversity. Less than 15 per cent of the original ecosystems remains, leaving many species threatened with extinction.

The middle-Magdalena Valley accounts for around 20 per cent of Colombia's bird (345 species, 4 endemic) as well as primates (6 species, 1 endemic, 1 near endemic), and rodents (27 species). 33 per cent of the country's bats (58 species) occur, as well as 21 per cent of its ants (approx. 180 species), 4 per cent of its vascular plants (723 species, 1 endemic) and 6 per cent of its amphibians (42 species, 3 endemic).

Thanks to Puro

WLT's corporate partnership with PURO Fairtrade Coffee has seen a percentage of the profits from the sale of every bag of their coffee being used to purchase and protect rainforest, restoring habitats and reinvigorating the land, where coffee is grown under the shade of native trees.

So far PURO has helped us save 70,133 acres of tropical rainforest in 12 reserves in 8 coffee producing countries.

Puro kick-started the Barbacoas appeal by designating £79,000. This has been a wonderful start and other donations are already coming in. Will you help us raise the balance as quickly as possible to save this habitat?

Restoring a 'green spine' in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, India



What is the Garo Green Spine?

WLT have been supporting Wildlife Trust of India since 2015 to restore the 'Garo Green Spine', which is an important forested region in the north-east Indian state of Meghalaya.

Undulating over an area of 8167 sq km, the Garo Hills support a remarkable diversity of species, with 85 species of mammals, 206 species of birds, 62 species of reptiles, 14 species of amphibians and more than 124 fish species.

The aim of the land protection is to connect fragmented forest patches in the Nokrek National Park in West Garo Hills, to ultimately create an unbroken forest corridor to Balpakram National

Park in South Garo Hills. This network of forest patches forms the backbone of the region's biodiversity and has been designated the **Garo Green Spine**.

Land acquisition in this region is achieved through agreements with local tribal communities, who place their forest land into Village Reserve Forests in return for community projects.

To date over 7,140 acres (3,000 hectares) of land has been secured, and WTI are on target to secure 8,650 acres (3,500 hectares) of land into conservation by the end of 2020.

Importance to elephants

The Garo Hills are part of the larger Meghalaya elephant landscape that includes the Garo Hills Elephant Reserve

spread over 3500 sq km, the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, three Protected Areas (Balpakram NP, Siju Wildlife Sanctuary and Nokrek NP) and five elephant corridors, together supporting about 1,000-1,500 elephants.

This incredible habitat is part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, but is among the most threatened of the Earth's biodiversity hotspots. Age-old agricultural practices like slash-and-burn cultivation (known as *jhumming*) have fragmented the forests, hindering wildlife movement and increasing human-wildlife conflict, especially with elephants.

WLT funding protection of a new elephant corridor, see next page



These elephants are protected by the Rewak-Siju Elephant Corridor saved and protected thanks to WLT supporters as part of this project. This corridor connects a string of protected properties: Balpakram National Park, Siju Wildlife Sanctuary, Rewak Reserve Forest and Nokrek National Park.

What exactly is a wildlife corridor?

Wildlife corridors do exactly what they imply, they provide safe passage for animals. As natural habitats become fragmented by deforestation and development so problems are created for wildlife to move safely. If animal populations are unable to move safely they exist only in isolated populations, even if they are in protected areas. This impacts genetic diversity and the overall health of many species. Further problems occur when animals try to travel from one safe space to another. They trample over farmers' fields or suburban backyards. They die crossing busy roads and as is particularly the case in India, railways. (It is worth noting that the National Wildlife Federation estimates that "on US highways, a vehicle hits an animal at least every 26 seconds.")

Across the Indian continent a huge number of terrestrial animals are affected by fragmentation of habitat and many of these are large, such as elephants, tigers and leopards, so collisions with traffic can cause serious threat to life. **Protecting elephant corridors is a win-win situation for humans and wildlife.**

WLT supports a new Elephant Corridor

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has identified 18 elephant corridors in the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh that need to be protected and secured to provide habitat continuity for elephants.

WLT is supporting WTI to secure the Dering-Dibru Saikhowa corridor. This corridor will enable the movement of around 500 elephants along with other key fauna such as tigers and leopards. Natural grasslands within the project area are also known to be important breeding localities for the Critically Endangered Bengal Bustard (also known as the Bengal Florican).

Nine villages occur within and along the corridor route and mitigating the conflict between elephants and local communities is a major objective of this project.

Threatened wetlands safeguarded for Sarus Cranes in Uttar Pradesh



The Sarus Crane is the tallest flying bird in the world standing around 1.5 metres tall with a wingspan of 2.4 metres. They survive in the wetlands of Uttar Pradesh, however this habitat is under threat from drainage, pollution and agricultural spread. While climate change might impact the breeding of Sarus Cranes, the more significant threat is the loss of breeding pairs due to land use change.

Protecting wetlands in Uttar Pradesh

Wetlands are under tremendous threat globally, and the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh is no exception.

The wetlands that survive in eastern Uttar Pradesh are a birdwatcher's paradise, being rich in diversity all year round, and welcoming migratory species who come here to over- winter.

The flagship species is the Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*). It is the only resident crane species in India and is the State Bird of Uttar Pradesh. However, loss of habitat has forced this species to move to rice paddy habitat for breeding.

Species to save:

Bird species include: Sarus Crane, Black-Necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*), Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*), Asian Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) as well as a host of migratory species.

Threatened turtle species include: Crowned River Turtle (*Hardella thurjii*), and Indian Soft Shell Turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*).

The wetlands are also home to Jungle Cat, civets, jackals and foxes as well as antelopes and deer.

The wetlands are also a repository of numerous plant species of food, fodder and medicinal value.

WLT supports Wildlife Trust of India through the Action Fund and Plant a Tree. You can make your donation using the form enclosed, or make a telephone donation (WLT office: 01986 874422). You can also donate online:

worldlandtrust.org

worldlandtrust.org

Trees planted to restore Brazilian forest

Nicholas Locke reports from REGUA



Nicholas Locke, President of REGUA (Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu) has spearheaded the creation of a the project in the Atlantic forest in Brazil since 1996, together with his wife Raquel.

“Photographic registers are a simple and vital way to record the progress of our work over the months. And they can often give one a shock when seeing how fast forests, when properly cultivated, can spring back into life.

At REGUA, we had an opportunity to purchase an area of grassland (above centre) from the Lemgruber family which represented an important corridor to areas of forest on both sides.

WLT rushed to our support and helped fund tree planting which has resulted in this extraordinary

Forest restored in just two years and species move in



Original grassland



2 years later in 2020

transformation (above right). This forest is only 24 months growth!

In March 2018 more than 150 species of native trees were planted in the grassland that you can see above. By carefully tending the results are dramatic and give us a true sense of hope!

We are very grateful to the REGUA field team who put in a huge effort (right), and to WLT supporters who funded us. The results are worth every effort and today we have birds and mammals associated with secondary forest cover using this young forest.

This is the very essence of REGUA's work here in the Atlantic rainforest, a global hotspot, in its aim of guaranteeing forests for the future.”



You can visit REGUA and walk in the Atlantic forest, maybe even seeing a sloth and other REGUA specialities. The lodge is in a spectacular location, is small and comfortable.

More info: regua.org



REGUA's flagship species: The Muriqui

The rarest mammal found on the REGUA reserve is the Southern Muriqui (or Southern Woolly Spider Monkey) (*Brachyteles arachnoides*). Split in the late 1980s as a separate species from the Northern Muriqui *B. hypoxanthus*, the Southern Muriqui is the largest New World primate and also one of the rarest, with less than 1,000 individuals surviving. It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Although they are only occasionally encountered at REGUA, sightings range from single animals to groups of up to 15 individuals. Larger groups have comprised males, females and young, showing that REGUA has a small but healthy population.

WLT's reserve in Gloucestershire, UK



Trees fight climate change

Whilst WLT hasn't measured the carbon stored at Kites Hill, the carbon-locking qualities of trees and woods are crucial in the fight against climate change.

“At Kites Hill we are able to demonstrate in the UK what our partners are able to achieve in other parts of the world.”

Kites Hill was bequeathed to WLT by Jane Pointer, a supporter, as a living legacy in 1999. It comprises 40 acres (16 hectares) of woodland and meadows, and, more recently, a wildlife pond, within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. For the past 20 years WLT has managed Kites Hill as a strictly protected nature reserve.

With its superb mix of habitats it is a haven for a wide range of wildlife, including Fallow Deer, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and bats.

From mid-April for a few weeks, the bluebells are spectacular, creating a blue haze above the verdant green woodland floor. Bluebells are common indicator species for ancient woodlands, so bluebell woods are likely to date back to at least 1600. The UK is home to more than half the world's population of bluebells, and are linked with folklore and traditions.

Visitors to the Kites Hill Reserve will see Orange-tip Butterflies (*Anthocharis cardamines*) which lay their eggs on the abundant Cuckooflower or Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*). Meadow Brown Butterflies (*Maniola jurtina*), whose numbers have declined due to agricultural intensification, can be seen flying low over the mixed grasses and Pyramidal Orchids (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) stand proud between June and August.

Wildflower meadows are not just important for plant diversity; they are vital for the survival of the UK's invertebrates: bees, flies, beetles, spiders, moths and butterflies which are abundant at Kites Hill.



Visiting Kites Hill

Kites Hill is near Painswick, adjacent to the National Trust property of Pope's Wood. The entrance to the reserve is by a gateway on Portway, off the A46 between Painswick and Bentham. The reserve is open all year round and there is no charge.

Please keep to the designated paths and note that the ground is uneven. As the site gets muddy in bad weather it is best not to use the trails in bad weather; dogs should be kept on leads.

Help World Land Trust save some of the last wild places on Earth

A legacy is a gift that protects habitats and their wildlife forever. Recent gifts have supported reforestation in Vietnam, vital habitat protection for the Blue-throated Hillstar hummingbird in Ecuador and Dakatcha Woodland in Kenya.

Please contact WLT if you would like to discuss remembering the Trust in your will.

worldlandtrust.org

worldlandtrust.org

Celebrating an inspirational woman

Changing minds and hearts in Venezuela



Venezuelan NGO, Provita, has partnered with WLT since 2008 primarily to protect the Endangered Yellow-shouldered Parrot and help boost numbers.

WLT has helped Provita create the Chacaracual Community Conservation Area (CCCA) which now protects 1,809 acres (732 hectares) on Macanao Peninsula of Margarita Island, located off the north-eastern coast of Venezuela.

The flagship species of the project is the Yellow-Shouldered Parrot which is threatened by loss of the island's dry forests and sand mining. However, its main threat comes from illegal collection of parrot chicks for the local pet trade and during the breeding season WLT-funded Keepers of the Wild work round the clock to protect nests.

Margarita is the only Caribbean island with a native carnivore population and the reserve safeguards endangered mammals such as the Margarita Ocelot and White-tailed Deer.

Bibiana Sucre graduated in biology



Against a backdrop of social and economic crisis in Venezuela, Bibiana Sucre is Exec. Director of Provita; she works tirelessly to strengthen environmental awareness and play a hands-on role in protecting Endangered Species like the Yellow-shouldered Parrot.

from the Simón Bolívar University and has worked with Provita since 2010. In 2014 she succeeded Provita co-founder Franklin Rojas as Exec. Director. Against a backdrop of seemingly insurmountable troubles in Venezuela, Bibiana works

tirelessly to strengthen a green movement within Macanao, helping create social and environmental change within extremely poor communities where illiteracy is common and environmental education virtually non-existent.

Support Provita through Keepers of the Wild
worldlandtrust.org/appeals/keepers-of-the-wild



**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



WLT publications are printed on recycled Carbon Balanced Paper supplied by Denmaur Paper Media, reducing the carbon impact of print communications. Ask your printer to quote on Carbon Balanced Paper.

carbonbalancedpaper.com

You can download the brochure as a pdf.