

**Saving habitats
Saving species
since 1989**

worldlandtrust.org



“Throughout this difficult time, World Land Trust has been humbled by your continuing support for conservation. It is because of you that we are continuing to empower our fantastic partners around the world to protect some of Earth’s most important, yet vulnerable, habitats and species. Thank you.”

Jonathan Barnard, WLT CEO

Inside this issue:

- Conservation action in Guatemala, Ecuador and Brazil
- New Buy an Acre opportunities
- Sir David Attenborough talks about Climate Change and COVID-19
- Nick Hollis aims for Guinness Book of Records, while supporting WLT

Our commitment to you:

With your support we will save threatened habitats and their species. We have lots of opportunities for you to get involved

First word

“ This is not the 2020 that anyone had planned for, and I certainly wasn't expecting to be dealing with the impact of a global pandemic in my first year as WLT CEO. WLT was hoping for a year of growth doing what we do best: focused on protecting biodiversity, regenerating the natural world, and tackling the climate crisis head-on. Like others, we had little inkling about what the implications of COVID-19, and the subsequent lockdowns, would mean for our work.

Yet, the response we have seen from our supporters has been astonishing – you have remained vocal about protecting the natural world, continuing to donate to the vital projects that we are currently funding. For instance, this year, our Plant a Tree programme is already supporting more reforestation than ever before. And, as you will see opposite, our Saving the Barbacoas' Forests and Wetlands appeal reached its target in April, allowing us to secure the future of this incredibly special and biodiverse part of Colombia before it was lost to agriculture forever. All of this is possible for one reason - you, our supporters.

It is easy to feel that the world is unpredictable right now, but we do know that habitat loss and climate change continue to threaten our future. So, in these unstable times, we have renewed our focus on our 'Action Fund', which will enable us to provide our partners with flexible but stable support, whenever, and wherever funds are urgently needed, such as in Mexico and Guatemala, where the fire season has already begun. The agility this fund provides is increasingly important for our partners in these times of uncertainty.”

Jonathan Barnard
CEO



Jonathan Barnard, WLT CEO, (second from right) is joined by a group of CEOs from WLT's overseas project partners. L-r: Lou Jost (Fundación EcoMinga, Ecuador), Victor Saravio (AESMO, Honduras), Nicholas Locke (REGUA, Brazil), Roberto Pedraza (GESG, Mexico), Ruben Khachatryan (FPWC, Armenia) and Vivek Menon (Wildlife Trust of India). All our partners join us in saying a BIG THANK YOU for helping them save threatened habitats and their species.



FUNDING COMPLETED!
£295,000 RAISED. THANK YOU!

Together we've saved 642 acres of
Forests & Wetlands in Colombia

With your help, our Spring appeal raised its target to enable our partner, Fundación Biodiversa, Colombia to extend El Silencio reserve.

Barbacoas' Forests and Wetlands are part of a mega-diverse, highly threatened eco-region extending from eastern Panama to the Lower Magdalena Valley in Colombia. The region has seen 90 per cent of its original forests disappear, and these funds will help save some of the best preserved forest patches in the region.

Vital habitat is being saved for Brown Spider Monkey, Lowland Tapir and West Indian Manatee, together with a wealth of other rare and threatened species. Together with the incredible range of terrestrial wildlife, the wetlands are full of aquatic diversity and extremely important fish nurseries.



A message from Colombia

“ During difficult times, the path to the future can sometimes seem desolate and wrought with insurmountable challenges. Yet now, when we look back, we see a path paved with dreams come true, and surrounded by a forest. A forest that shades our present and nourishes our souls with magic sounds and scents. This is what makes us hopeful for the future and gives us strength to move forward. Thank you to World Land Trust and its supporters for putting faith in us and for helping us save the fragile habitats in the Barbacoas' Forests and Wetlands.”

Fernando Arbeláez, President of
Fundación Biodiversa Colombia

It's all about ACTION:

Protecting the 'green gold' of the Caribbean



COUNTRY: GUATEMALA
LAND: 1,668 ACRES
(675 HECTARES)

Expanding Laguna Grande Reserve,
 Caribbean coastline

**HABITAT: TROPICAL FOREST,
 WETLAND
 AND LAGOONS**

KEY SPECIES:

Jaguar
 Baird's Tapir
 Yucatan Black-howler Monkey
 West Indian Manatee
 White-tailed Deer
 Cerulean Warbler

The Guatemalan Caribbean coastline forms part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and Mesoamerica Biodiversity Hotspot. The region is vital for migratory birds making their biannual journey up and down coastal Central America. The project area contains 426 recorded species of birds and 145 species of mammals, 6 of which are Mesoamerican endemics.

About our partner, FUNDAECO

FUNDAECO aims to protect the integrity and beauty of nature through the creation and management of protected areas, the sustainable use of natural resources, and improving quality of life for local people.




WLT has partnered with FUNDAECO since 2008 supporting a number of reserves both in the Caribbean coast and in the western highlands.

Support this project through WLT's Action Fund. You can make your donation using the form enclosed, by telephone (WLT office: 01986 874422), or online: worldlandtrust.org



Laguna Grande Reserve encompasses a unique system of lagoons, mangroves, inundated forests, lowland forests, and karstic mountain forests.



 Pending Purchases
 Laguna Grande
 Rio Sarstún Multiple use Area



The Laguna Grande Sarstún Reserve, owned and protected by WLT partner, Foundation for Eco-development and Conservation (FUNDAECO), is located within an area of tropical forest and wetland which is one of the largest remnants of lowland and flooded tropical rainforest in Caribbean Guatemala.

These lowland forests are vitally important as they link ecological niches across the region. Without them, Guatemala's protected areas would be little more than 'biological islands' – the protected mountaintops where most of the region's protected areas have been declared.

The proposed expansion to the reserve is located in the Izabal region and spans the entire Caribbean coastline of Guatemala, bordering Belize to the north and Honduras to the south.

The range of species recorded reflects the biological importance of the habitats within the reserve. More than 50 mammal species are known to occur, including the threatened West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) and Yucatán Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*). Jaguars have been photographed swimming in the lagoon, and the region is particularly important for bat diversity.



Feared extinct for more than 40 years, Jackson's Climbing Salamander was rediscovered in 2017 by ranger, Ramos Leon-Tomas, in FUNDAECO's San Isidro Amphibian Reserve. He found it again in March 2020, making this only the fourth time humans have laid eyes on this 2.4 cm 'golden wonder', despite its dramatic markings.

Jackson's Climbing Salamander (*Bolitoglossa jacksoni*), known locally as the 'golden wonder', had been lost to science since its discovery in 1975. It is now protected by FUNDAECO's San Isidro Amphibian Reserve.



FOCUS ON Brazil and Zambia

COUNTRY: BRAZIL
LAND: 277 ACRES
(112 HECTARES)

Purchase of four key areas of
Atlantic Forest

KEY SPECIES:

Southern Woolly Spider
Monkey (Muriqui)
Lowland Tapir
Crowned (Chaco) Eagle
Golden-tailed Parrotlet
Central Humming Frog
Brazilian Snake-necked Turtle

WLT partner in Brazil, Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), protects some of the last remnants of Atlantic Forest within the Guapiaçu Watershed. REGUA currently owns 16,700 acres (6,785 hectares) of land and manages a further 18,900 acres (7,650 hectares), in partnership with the owners.

In 2020 WLT would like to assist REGUA to secure an additional 277 acres (112 hectares) of strategically important land, to connect the reserve's forests and give wildlife continuous protected habitat. Most of this land still has its primary forest cover, and REGUA plans to reforest the one acre that is currently pasture. Their dedicated ranger team, which includes WLT-funded **Keepers of the Wild**, will patrol the newly acquired properties.

Reforestation at REGUA

REGUA has an impressive reforestation programme whereby seeds are collected and grown on in their nurseries before planting out. So far, more than 500,000 native trees, of 160 different species, have restored 600 acres (250 hectares) of former pasture land.

The Atlantic Forest is one of the most threatened forest regions in the world, with less than 7 per cent of its original forest remaining, and an estimated 2 per cent of primary forest still intact.



Rildo de Rosa Oliveira, is a **Keeper of the Wild**, supported by WLT, and has worked at REGUA for nearly 20 years. Rildo patrols the forest ensuring hunters do not trespass into the reserve. As well as patrolling the reserve, he also accompanies researchers and guests on forest walks and is an excellent naturalist. He photographed this troop of Endangered Southern Woolly Spider Monkeys on the Red Trail at REGUA last year.

COUNTRY: ZAMBIA
LAND:

Relieving threats within Kasanka
National Park through community
incentives

KEY SPECIES:

African Elephant
Hippo
Leopard
Straw-coloured Fruit Bat
Sitatunga

KNP is home to a small population of African Elephant. This impressive bull is well-known to the park rangers. They call him "Old Kasanka", recognising him by his one very long straight tusk and the other broken quite short. He comes to swim in Lake Wasa from time to time.

Kasanka National Park (KNP) is one of Zambia's smallest yet most diverse national parks. It is rapidly gaining recognition for hosting the annual congregation of some eight to ten million Straw-coloured Fruitbats, which share the swampy mushitu wetland canopy in which they roost with agile Blue Monkeys, trogons and turacos.

WLT works with partner, Kasanka Nature Trust, to alleviate the threat of poaching and fires, as well as carrying out education work with local communities to better understand the threats from indiscriminate charcoal making and unsustainable collection of other forest products.



What is the WLT Action Fund?

The Action Fund is WLT's unrestricted conservation fund which allows the Trust to direct funding quickly to where it is most urgently needed. Funds may be used for any of WLT's key projects and appeals, and occasionally, when emergencies occur, the Action Fund enables us to respond quickly to urgent requests from our programme partners.

worldlandtrust.org/appeals/action-fund/

FOCUS ON Ecuador

COUNTRY: ECUADOR
LAND: 518 ACRES
(210 HECTARES)

Extending Buenaventura Reserve

KEY SPECIES:

El Oro Parakeet
El Oro Tapaculo
Ecuadorian Capuchin Monkey
Western Two-Toed Sloth,
Spotted Tigrillo
Buenaventura Rainfrog

Buenaventura is the only reserve to protect the unique cloud forests of southwestern Ecuador. It provides vital habitat for 15 globally threatened bird species and many endemic species including several reptile and amphibians that are only known from this reserve.

Fundación Jocotoco's aim is to link together existing reserve areas and extend protection. This land purchase will also extend the altitudinal range of the reserve to ensure better connectivity, to give species vulnerable to temperature change room to move safely within the protected area as the climate warms.

The Buenaventura Reserve was created to protect the home range of El Oro Parakeet (*Pyrrhura orcesi*), which was only discovered in 1980. During the 1990s much of the forests were cleared to create extensive pastures. The current reserve protects 7,097 acres (2,872 hectares) of vital habitat.

ACTION FUND



- Buenaventura Reserve
- WLT Funded Properties
- 2020 Purchases
- Potential Expansions



At the front line of reserve protection: supporting Keepers of the Wild



Keepers of the Wild (reserve rangers) are the eyes, ears and voice of the reserves. They are constantly on call and act bravely to extinguish fires before they can take hold. This fire, in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, occurred in April this year and other partners are reporting fires on their reserves.

Tackling forest fires

This is forest fire season and as has been made brutally clear over recent years climate change is increasing the scale and intensity of fires. It is true to say that globally, somewhere on Earth is on fire.

WLT-funded reserves are not immune to fire, of course, but having a presence in the forest, reserve rangers (**Keepers of the Wild**) are early responders and at the forefront of fighting wild fires.

Fires may be a result of natural causes or human actions, but either way fires are going to happen, but catching them early is essential. The good thing is that nature is amazingly resilient. Given time, habitats can spring back to life and endangered species can be brought back from the brink of extinction.

If you have generously donated to help us purchase threatened habitats, please consider continuing your support through Keepers of the Wild.

Your donations help us to fund more Keepers of the Wild, equipping them with the resources they need to combat fires. They are always on call, working tirelessly to patrol reserves, assessing the potential threat of wildfires and dealing with them if they occur.

A one-off donation of £5,000 will sponsor a reserve ranger for a year, and every donation, no matter how small, helps us protect vital habitats.

worldlandtrust.org/keepers-of-the-wild



Celebrating Buy an Acre

£100 = One Acre, in Ecuador & Mexico

Ecuador: Fundación EcoMinga

Land purchase: Expansion of the Manduriacu Reserve in Western Ecuador

This important reserve sits at the juncture of the Tumbes-Choco-Magdalena and Tropical Andes biodiversity hotspots and is located between four Important Bird Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas. The area suffers high levels of illegal logging and hunting and new mining concessions are also threatening the ecosystem and livelihoods of local people.

This new land purchase will extend forest protection by 682 acres (276 hectares) ensuring habitat for the 'lost' Tandayapa Andean Toad (*Rhaebo olallai*), recently discovered here, along with other newly discovered species of frog and rodents, the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey and other rare species. 150 species of birds are known to occur but EcoMinga expect there to be many more once they start surveying. Although internationally listed as Near Threatened, Manduriacu protects the Critically Endangered western population of the Jaguar.

Mexico: Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda (GESG)

Land purchase: Expansion of Cerro Prieto-Cerro de la Luz reserve

A strategically important property has become available in the Cerro Prieto reserve in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. It is a forested area and part of a major biological corridor. Although no wildlife surveys have been conducted in the area, Puma and Jaguar tracks are regularly found. Their presence speaks of the conservation value of the area.

Buy an Acre

Save one acre for £100 (half an acre for £50 or quarter of an acre for £25). You can make your donation using the form enclosed, by telephone (WLT office: 01986 874422), or online: worldlandtrust.org

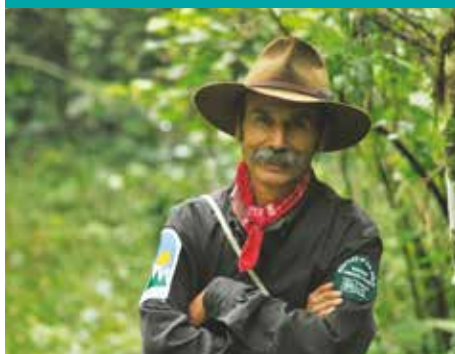


Above: the forests protected by the Manduriacu Reserve.

Right: The recently discovered Tandayapa Andean Toad and Brown-headed Spider Monkey.



Keepers of the Wild on these reserves



Head ranger, Miguel Flores, is one of three WLT funded **Keepers of the Wild**, working with partner, GESG, to protect the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve.

The **Keepers of the Wild** programme forms a key part of WLT's conservation strategy, to do everything possible to protect the reserves that WLT donors have helped create.



Darwin Recalde is one of four reserve **Keepers of the Wild** with Fundación EcoMinga, funded through WLT. EcoMinga's most senior reserve guard, Jesus Recalde, retired in 2019 after working on the reserve for the past twelve years. Jesus's place has been taken by his only son, Darwin Recalde who is passionate about his work.



What has COVID-19 taught us?

We asked Sir David Attenborough and Simon Barnes for their views

Sir David has supported World Land Trust (WLT) since it was founded in 1989 and became a patron in 2003. Over the years he has always been available for comment and advice and has helped us stay true to our mission, saying:

“In a world where wildlife is struggling to survive, WLT and their overseas conservation partners are saving as much of the wild world as they can. Over the thirty years, while biodiverse habitats have come under increasing pressure from humans, WLT has remained utterly committed to permanently protecting endangered habitats.”

In recent years, Sir David has become vocal in his concerns about the state of the planet. In 2018, he attended a climate summit in Poland and delivered a powerful speech urging world leaders to take immediate action against climate change. He has continued to be a major influencer in the need for a change in attitudes.

Last year he took part in a short film made especially for WLT supporters. The film poses the question: “What can I, as an individual, do?” in the face of the climate emergency. In the film he offers the individual an opportunity to make a difference by unlocking a generation of change makers. Joined by WLT Council member, Simon Barnes, Sir David describes why he believes that supporting WLT in its mission to Save Land and Save Species is an important means by which individual action can achieve an impact.

Since then COVID-19 has taken over our lives, reminding us once again of the fragility of the human species, and once again Sir David has been thrown into the limelight and is constantly asked for his views. He is still firmly of the opinion that COVID-19 is a short term problem but climate change isn't going away. However Sir David does feel that for the first time the nations of the world are beginning to see that survival depends on co-operation.



Sir David Attenborough and WLT Council member and author, Simon Barnes at the Royal Geographical Society, London in 2019, filming the ‘What can I, as an individual, do?’ Since then the world has changed but climate change is still with us. worldlandtrust.org/patrons/sir-david-attenborough/

When speaking with WLT recently, Sir David said:

“If COVID-19 has taught us anything it is to not take nature for granted. It has been a rather shocking awakening for all of us and has brought us closer to the reality that we have been taking all our resources for granted. The crisis has, however, shown us that governments can take dramatic and life-changing actions. Shutting down international air traffic, for a start, has had an incredible effect on reducing carbon emissions. Governments could also play a major role in recognizing the last remaining wilderness areas and halting extinctions.

Let's hope this will be step two in a heightened awareness of just what can be achieved. In the meantime I fully support the work being carried out World Land Trust who have a very impressive track record – having saved more than a million acres and all their diversity for our futures.”

VIRUS

by Simon Barnes

Home baked bread. Good turns to and from neighbours. A return to rambling phone calls. People trying to be nice. A little more time for reading. And thinking. New projects.

No one's in any danger of calling Coronavirus a blessing in disguise, but it's part of the human condition to find good things in unpromising circumstances. So let's look at two of the most important things that have emerged from the time of weirdness.

One: many people realised how much nature matters to them as birdsong came whistling through the windows of the silenced cities. Nature isn't nice: nature is essential. Two: we now know that the world can act together in a crisis, and act radically. With global heating and the ecological holocaust we have a far greater crisis than C-19 ever could be. So let's act...

From Summit to Sea:

Nick Hollis takes on an incredible challenge, and Guinness World Record attempt, while raising funds for WLT



British climber, Nick Hollis, has conquered Everest and completed the 'Seven Summits' of the world - putting him into an elite group of around 500 people globally who have scaled the highest mountains on all seven continents. On his return from Everest, he said: "I felt a bit flat and knew I needed another challenge, something that I could use to raise awareness of conservation too, something with a high profile."

After talking with WLT patron, Steve Backshall, Nick decided that he would like to raise funds for World Land Trust and chose FUNDAECO's project in Guatemala for support (see page 3).

“Every time I go back to Central and South America, I see there has been more logging, more burning to make charcoal. There have been times when we take boats down the river for part of the journey, and when I've gone back two or three years later, the starting point is 2km further into the reserve because of deforestation.”

The 721 Challenge combines the 7 Summits challenge, where an individual climbs the highest mountain on each of the seven continents, with skiing to both the North and South Poles (the first two parts of the challenge are known collectively as The Explorer's Grand Slam), before finishing by rowing across the Atlantic Ocean. Nick is hoping to be the fastest, and only the second, person to complete the challenge. The first was, in Nick's words, "the greatest unknown explorer," Fyodor Konyukhov, whose attempt took nine years to finish.

To make things more "interesting", Nick has added the pressure of a Guinness World Record attempt, planning to become the fastest person to complete all three stages of the challenge in just three years. **We send thanks to Nick and good luck on his adventures.**



Through his experience as an expedition leader and global mountaineer, Nick has witnessed first-hand the negative environmental impact caused by humans on the natural world. This has inspired him to place environmental responsibility and sustainability at the heart of what he does, including campaigning and fundraising for WLT. Nick and his team will be working to minimize their carbon footprint and offsetting unavoidable emissions through WLT's Carbon Balanced programme. Nick is also doing the challenge on a plant-based diet, to show that the human body can thrive on a diet that has a lower carbon footprint than a meat-based one.

You can find out more about Nick, and the 721 Challenge, 721challenge.com and follow Nick's progress on every summit facebook.com/721Challenge



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