

ISSUE No. 69 SPRING 2021

**Saving habitats  
Saving species  
since 1989**

[worldlandtrust.org](http://worldlandtrust.org)

## SAVING TANZANIA'S COASTAL FORESTS

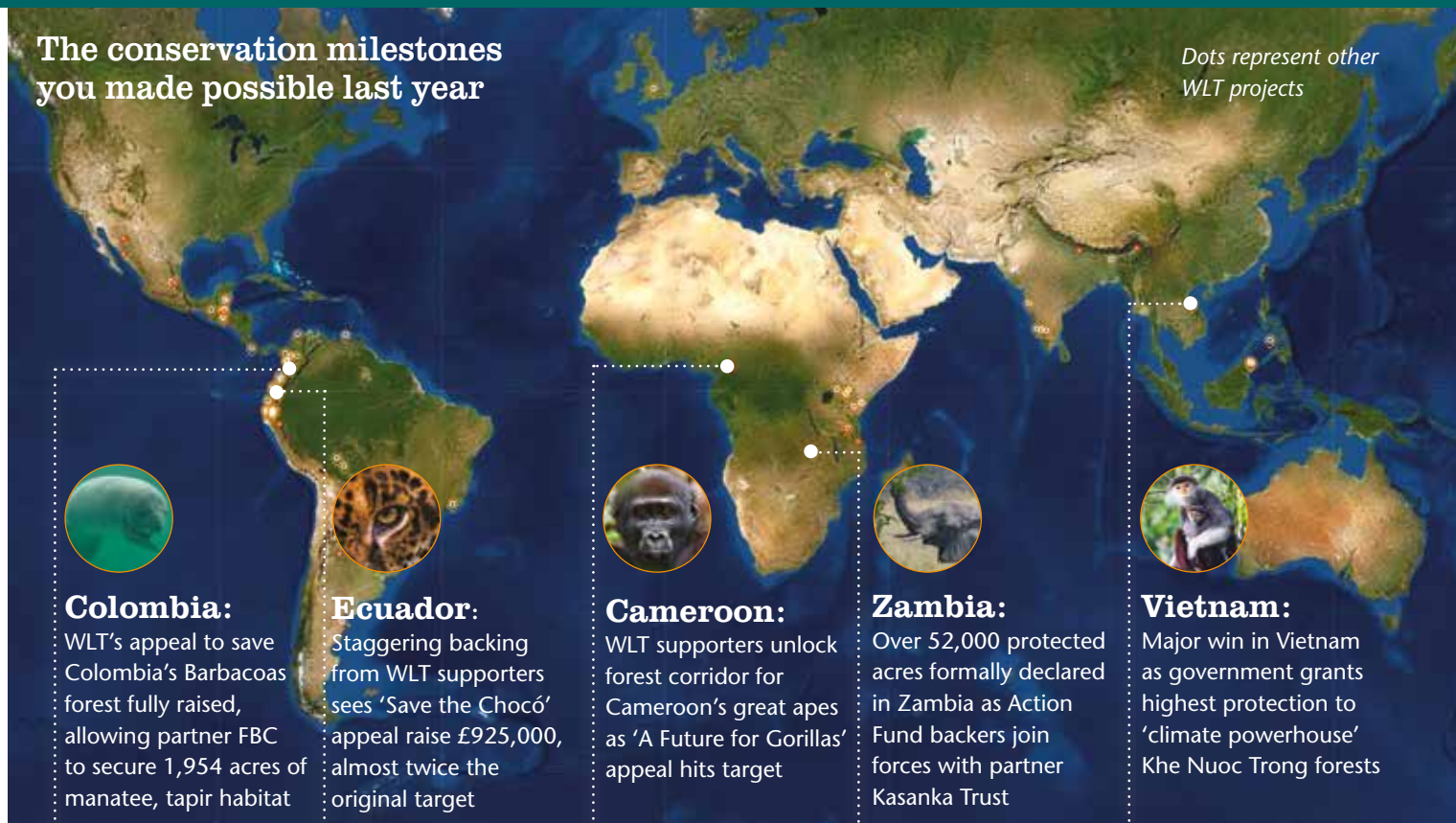
Help us protect one of  
the few crucial corridors  
left for the elephants  
of East Tanzania

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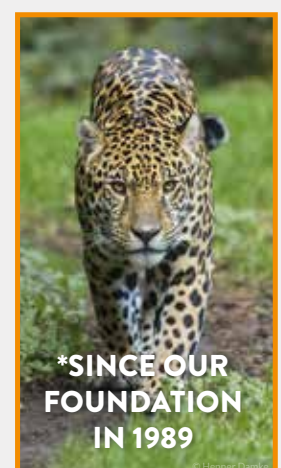
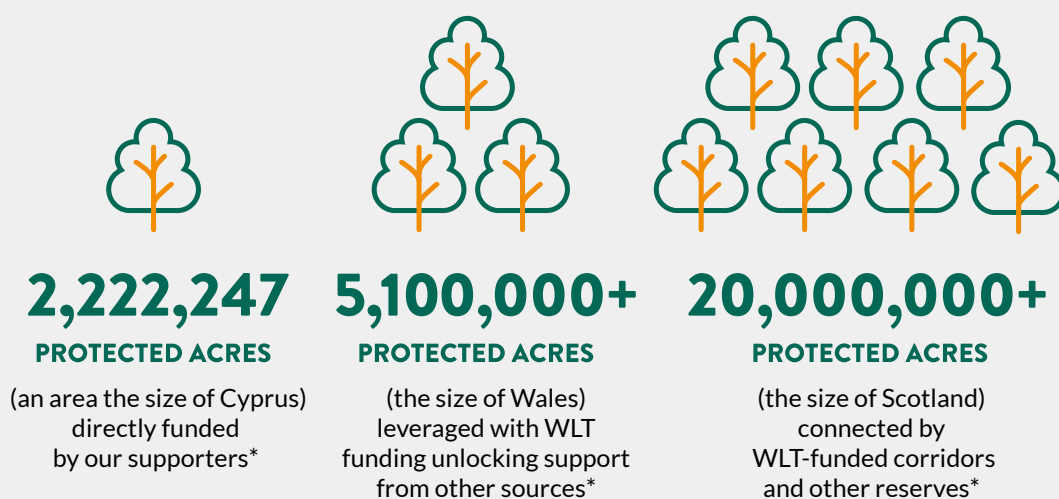
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# An incredible year: The impact of WLT supporters in 2020



## CONNECTING HABITATS IN 2020 AND BEYOND



**43,773**  
tCO<sub>2</sub>e

Offset in 2020 through our Carbon Balanced programme – equivalent to taking 20,754 average UK cars off the roads for a year

**WILDLIFE**  
PROTECTED

through our Action Fund in 2020 in Armenia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Zambia

© Tropical Herping

**44**  
RANGERS

Funded in 2020 through our Keepers of the Wild programme

**64,000+**  
ACRES

Brought under protection in 2020 across all programmes

© Edwin Butler

# The work goes on in 2021: A new year of saving wild places together

2021 is already shaping up to be crucial for the planet, with major summits on climate change (UNFCCC COP26) and biodiversity (CBD COP 15) that will determine whether the world sets the right course this decade. Previewed in these pages, the milestones WLT supporters like you made possible in 2020 are proof of the impact you can make, this year again, against global warming and biodiversity loss through us.

Made possible by you, news of conservation successes by our partners have already started flowing in this year (see some of our recent 2021 stories below) and there will be more milestones for nature – if you help us. Setting up your fundraising challenges for WLT, hosting your own quiz nights, donating proceeds from your artwork; your options to save land with our partners are unlimited in 2021!

Visit our [www.worldlandtrust.org/get-involved/](http://www.worldlandtrust.org/get-involved/) page to discover all your options to fight climate change by supporting WLT's work



By helping our partners protect mature tropical forests – such as Ecuador's Nangaritza – WLT supporters like you can save an ecosystem scientists believe is key to defeating global warming.

## The first conservation milestones of WLT partners in 2021

### Double leopard sighting fuels survival hopes in Armenia



Two young Caucasian Leopards have been spotted at FPWC's Caucasus Wildlife Refuge. Our partner believes one could be female, a "real hope" for a country – Armenia – where only 15 Caucasian Leopards are thought to be left. Donate to our Action Fund to help protect FPWC's Refuge, give these elusive cats a chance!

### A safer home for critically endangered bird in Colombia



The 302-acre reserve expansion by our partner Fundación Guanacas Bosques de Niebla has handed a lifeline to the Antioquia Brushfinch, a bird known only from museum specimens until 2018. With fewer than 50 confirmed individuals, the species will need continued support to thrive – a support you can give.

### Guatemala's Laguna Grande: an ally for people and planet



For 2021's World Wetlands Day, we celebrated the Laguna Grande reserve of our partner FUNDAECO, a crucial home for manatee, tapir and others and a source of livelihood and a hurricane barrier for local people. Head to our website to discover our video of a place that needs your help against logging.

Your donations to our Action Fund will allow our partners to protect species in Armenia, Colombia, Guatemala and beyond. Head on to [www.worldlandtrust.org/donate/](http://www.worldlandtrust.org/donate/) to make a difference this year!



# Saving Tanzania's Coastal Forests: Our new appeal at a glance



Far from the famous plains of the Serengeti lies one of Tanzania's little-known natural treasure troves. The country's coast is part of a biodiversity hotspot that stretches from Somalia to Mozambique: an ancient mosaic of forest fragments, their isolation giving rise to unique biodiversity islands packed with endemic life that does not live anywhere else. Only 10% of the coastal forests of eastern Africa remains standing and in Tanzania's Lindi Region, a new road is ramping up pressure over an area already blighted by deforestation for commercial farming.

Thankfully, this is a stretch of African coastal forest WLT supporters like you can do something about. Your donations to our new campaign will help create reserves all around the 900-metre-high Rondo Plateau – new protected land for the elephants and leopards who gather at the foot of this tabletop mountain, as well as the endangered bush baby primates and chameleons of the misty forests at the top. Scientists are only starting to map out the life of Tanzania's coastal forests; join us as we make sure none is lost before it is discovered!



- All VLFR Project Villages
- Latest Proposed VLFRs
- Existing VLFRs
- Existing Protected Areas



Human pressure is already closing two elephant routes north of Rondo, making TFCG's plan to save this wildlife corridor even more crucial.

## FUNDRAISING TARGET £360,000

### Our partner's plan

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), together with local communities, want to create 10 Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs) in Lindi District, totalling more than 49,000 acres (20,000 ha) in size. The proposed reserves are part of a hugely important (and currently unprotected) wildlife corridor, connecting the Rondo Forest Reserve and the Selous Game Reserve. Each reserve will come under the stewardship of a village with whom TFCG will work closely. By incentivising conservation and supporting sustainable livelihoods, TFCG hope to secure a bright future for the Rondo Plateau area that benefits communities, preserves coastal forests, and allows local flora and fauna to thrive.

### The life at stake

#### African Elephant

TFCG's project will protect a migratory route that the region's elephants have used for generations. Human-wildlife conflict has left these small matriarchal groups shy and secretive, but the preservation and restoration of Rondo's forests will give the elephants more room in which to feed, away from local farms.



#### Rondo Galago

One of the world's most endangered primates, this species is known to survive in just a few isolated forests in Tanzania, the Rondo Forest Reserve among them. Through TFCG's 10 proposed VLFRs, we can build extra protection around one of the last viable homes of the Rondo bush babies.



#### African Lion

This iconic big cat has suffered a dramatic decline over the last 25 years, its population falling by about half. Establishing VLFRs on the Rondo Plateau will protect the forest-shrubland interface that local Lions need to hunt. Their key prey species include those harmful to villagers' crops, like the African Bush Pig.



# Four reasons to save Tanzania's coastal forests

## 1 Why does it matter to save this stretch of Tanzania's coastal forests?

Tanzania's Rondo Plateau is a singular place, standing out even among the other crucial fragments of coastal forest in the country. Elevation – this tabletop mountain is the only in Tanzania's coastal forests to boast such height – and weather patterns have shaped a multi-layered forest mosaic of endemic, poorly-known plant and animal life. With human activity picking up in the area, our partner TFCG's plan to protect 49,000+ acres is key. It would allow to set up a colossal buffer zone all around Rondo – a natural shield for elephants and others that you can make possible.



## 2 Why does it matter to save it now?

Tanzania is globally recognised as a biodiversity hotspot and hosts the highest plant diversity in Africa. However, it also continues to lose one million acres of forest every year due to forest fires, unsustainable timber harvesting and large-scale agriculture. Your donations will help protect a specific section of coastal forest – the Rondo landscape of the Lindi District – that is now, for the first time in Tanzania's history, accessible by road; a ticking clock that risks transforming an ecosystem where every tree matters into monoculture farmland.



## 3 What happens if we don't intervene?

Deforestation has already claimed 90% of eastern Africa's coastal canopy. For the life of Rondo, road infrastructure is opening the door to increased pressure via intensive farming; a door we must close. Much lies at stake if we don't intervene now and help our partner TFCG create these 10 reserves alongside local people: we could lose a forest home to specialist primates and chameleons that can only live in a handful of ecosystems like this, a water source for elephant families and the hunting ground for Lion, African Leopard and others.



## 4 Who will benefit if we intervene?

At Rondo, the trove of life begins at the forest canopy, with over 100 endemic plant species and scientists working against the clock to document species – like the *Gigasiphon macrosiphon*, with only 48 mature trees counted across its entire range – on the brink of extinction. To donate to our new campaign is to help save this mosaic of forest fragments and the wildlife that calls them home.

And, just as importantly, the benefits of your donations will extend to local communities. Rather than purchasing land directly, TFCG's plan involves having the people of Lindi District decide where the 10 new reserves will be created. In return, our partner will boost local livelihoods through village savings and loan associations and new programmes for sustainable farming and forest management.



- 1 The microclimate created by Rondo's elevation has shaped a mosaic of endemic life.
- 2 The tiny Bearded Pygmy Chameleons are only found in habitats like these misty forests.
- 3 TFCG's project will ensure communities can decide where the new reserves are created.
- 4 Saving the coastal canopy is key for African Leopard, who use the trees to store prey.
- 5 Our partner has already launched loan associations to help communities of the area.





# “You’re part of this beautiful place”

## TFCG ranger Lilian Santos on why WLT supporters should help save Tanzania’s coastal forests



*To lay eyes on Tanzania’s coastal forests is to be moved by their beauty and vitality and Lilian Santos, a ranger working for our partner Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), has spent months exploring this mosaic of forest fragments. In her letter to World Land Trust (WLT) supporters, Lilian talks about the conservation milestone you can deliver by donating to our new campaign – joining forces with local people to save the home of forest primates, elephants, lions and leopards.*

I’ve always known I wanted to work in conservation.

It started with wildlife documentaries when I was a child, and continued through secondary school and university. After finishing my bachelor’s degree I went straight into conservation with TFCG and here I am – part of the protection of the coastal forests of eastern Tanzania.

I wish people could see the landscape they can help us save through the village land forest reserves (VLFs) here in Lindi Province because it’s so beautiful. Over the past few months of community engagement and field trips, we’ve explored the forests adjacent to the Rondo Nature Reserve and the Selous Game Reserve: the lower side of the plateau where we believe elephants normally visit from Mozambique during the rainy season and the upper side with the incredible view of all the landscape. To stand up there and look out is amazing.

During our monitoring trips we’ve seen signs of so much wildlife – fresh traces of African Elephant and African Leopard, tracks showing that an African Buffalo had been on the same spot as us only minutes before. Walking through the forest not even two days past, we were measuring trees when we spotted a Chequered Elephant Shrew running away!

Setting up the new forest reserves will be crucial for all these species and local communities will have a leading voice. With this project, they will be the ones deciding where the new reserves will be created, and we’ve been visiting villages of

the area to start the conversation. During our talks, we tell them about the need to protect the other living beings of the forest from encroachment and other threats; we answer their questions about how setting land aside for conservation will benefit them.

These are people like the Mwera, the Makua and the Makonde – and this project will offer them alternative livelihoods so that forest protection benefits them too. For instance, access to credit is a struggle in this area and that’s why we’ve been establishing village savings and loan associations, a move that has already been well received by local people. The plan is now, with your support, to help them transition to more sustainable forms of farming – fostering techniques so that with a small plot of land, local people can produce huge yields.

The coastal forests of Tanzania are a place we must save – a place we can save. I think about the success our country has seen in other areas like the Ngorogoro Crater in the north: how conservation action there resulted in an environment where people and wildlife live in the same general area, and yet animals remain safe and communities enjoy a comfortable life. I think about our potential to work with children in Lindi and beyond: how through them we can nurture a new generation who will believe that conservation is not just important; it is also mutually beneficial.

Fighting to save habitats is hard work but I will never get tired because I am so optimistic of what we can achieve in Tanzania. To World Land Trust supporters, I say this: if you help us save these coastal forests, you’re already part of this beautiful place. Let’s make it happen!

*Lilian Santos  
Project officer at TFCG*

# Businesses for nature:

## A season of highlights from WLT's corporate supporters

### Buy an Acre: Celebrating the companies making an impact through our programme



#### From fieldwork with bears to nature-supporting prints: Newton Paisley

The sale of Newton Paisley's nature-themed fabric and wallpaper is neatly stitched into supporting our Buy an Acre programme – 100m2 of land is protected with every metre of fabric and roll of wallpaper sold. A conservation biologist by training, Dr Susy Paisley spent years studying Andean Bears while illustrating the flora and fauna around her. In 2016 she decided conservation was a story she wanted to tell through textiles. She was moved to support WLT by our focus on partnering with local communities. "With WLT, I admire how the focus is on working together with them to set aside land for nature," Susy tells us. "Without nature we are all done for. We have to leave nature alone long enough that it can rescue us. Valuing and protecting nature is the most important thing we can do – I feel like I'm just getting started, and I'm hopeful that many other businesses are coming around to this too."



#### Eco-nappies to give back to people and planet: Kit & Kin

Christopher Money had always known he would launch a business to make a difference and in 2017, he saw his chance. His creation of Kit & Kin alongside singer Emma Bunton was not just to offer families nappies that are better for babies (petrochemical-free) and for the world (plant-based, sustainable materials); it was also, he tells us, to give back to nature. For every 10 nappy subscriptions, Kit & Kin funds the protection of one acre with WLT. As their product range grew, the business acted to lend further support to Buy an Acre and to a community project with Guatemalan partner FUNDAECO that Christopher visited in 2019. "My strongest memory is the enthusiasm of FUNDAECO's rangers," he says. "Local people know the land best and can protect it better than anyone. Supporting this is not just wonderful; it also makes commercial sense for any brand."



#### The mirror of younger generations: Paul J Mottram

For Paul Mottram and Marjorie Epton, the husband-and-wife duo behind media music composing business Paul J Mottram, the support for conservation doesn't only stem from their own beliefs, but also that of their children. "They've been increasingly vocal about what we're doing about it," Paul says. "We've known for a while that [protecting the planet] is something we must do but with the next generation, the urgency becomes very stark." The company helped WLT save an initial 30 acres of land in July 2020, and has since pledged to save a further 10 acres a month. "It is great to be involved in projects that feel so permanent," Marjorie explains. "What we worry about as a family is climate change and we felt that land protection was the key action to support. WLT met all our criteria and more – patrons like Sir David Attenborough made it a no-brainer."

Southern Muriqui populations are thought to have plummeted by 80% worldwide over the past 60 years but in Brazil, our partner REGUA has a chance to secure 1,608 acres of habitat. Head on to our website to discover how to support this new Buy an Acre project.



This year WLT is celebrating our Buy an Acre supporters; the impact that businesses and individuals have made and will continue to make through our flagship programme. This is a movement you can join: from Colombia's manatees to Ecuador's glass frogs, Mexico's jaguars and Zambia's elephants, all are species you can help by becoming a Buy an Acre supporter!

Visit [www.worldlandtrust.org/appeals/buy-an-acre/](http://www.worldlandtrust.org/appeals/buy-an-acre/) for more information



# The impact of WLT fundraisers



Seb and Sam's 30-day run for nature saves 57+ acres (and counting).

For anyone out there feeling that climate change and global extinctions are too big a problem to take on, the story of 7-year-old Seb and 8-year-old Sam is an important reminder: no one is ever too small to make a difference.

This duo from St Albans were deeply moved by Sir David Attenborough's film *A Life on Our Planet*, released by the WLT Patron last year, and took it upon themselves to raise £2,021 for WLT – by running 202.1km between them in

30 days at the start of 2021.

Smashing this fundraising target in under a week, the boys then set their sights on a whopping £5,000 – enough to save 50 acres of threatened habitat for posterity. Donations came flooding in as our runners for nature braved snow, ice and freezing temperatures on the trails. Along the way, Seb and Sam received messages of support from former England cricketers Ashley Giles and Michael Vaughan, as well as wildlife TV presenter and WLT patron Chris Packham.

Incredibly, by early February Seb and Sam had achieved their £5,000 goal – more than double their initial target – and the total continues to rise. After crossing the finish line, the boys told *The Herts Advertiser*: "We'll remember it for the rest of our lives. It's not too late to make a difference." Congratulations to our runners, and a big thank you from WLT and our partners!

## Your own turn to champion nature: Becoming a WLT fundraiser

Like Seb and Sam, you too could make far more difference for nature than you think – and running is not necessarily required. Setting up a Facebook fundraiser, hosting a quiz night, selling your photography prints; the options are endless. What's your idea? Let us know at [info@worldlandtrust.org](mailto:info@worldlandtrust.org) and we'll help you every step of the way!

## Become a WLT Friend in 2021!

In times like these, endangered species need a friend more than ever – they need you.

When you become a WLT Friend you contribute regularly, and you make a difference for nature. Through your support to our Action Fund, you bring conservation action wherever and whenever it's most urgently needed – like the WLT Friends who last year helped fund the declaration of 52,000 acres in Zambia, reserve expansions in Brazil and Ecuador, a safer home for crane hatchlings in India and anti-fire equipment in Bolivia and Mexico.

The WLT Friends movement needs you and with monthly donations of £5 possible, no contribution is ever too small when it comes to saving nature through us!



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[carbonbalancedpaper.com](http://carbonbalancedpaper.com)  
You can download the brochure as a pdf.

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