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Saving land
Saving species

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WLT NEWS

World Land Trust Autumn Newsletter 2024



A lot has happened in the six months since our previous newsletter. Though we in the UK may have had a rather wet summer, the climate crisis continues to make its presence felt more seriously with extreme weather, droughts, floods, and wildfires growing ever-more prevalent across the world. According to Copernicus, Europe's climate change service, this summer broke global heat records for the second year in a row, and this year's June through to August was the world's hottest period since records began in 1940.

We had a general election that brought more than 60,000 people (including a group of World Land Trust supporters and staff) together in London to call on all politicians to take urgent environmental action and restore nature. From energy-efficient infrastructure, sustainable transport, and food security, to measures to reach global net zero, individuals and organisations are showing governments what matters most to us and demanding action against climate change and biodiversity loss. As always at World Land Trust, in the midst of mounting challenges, we are focusing on solutions to directly protect land and nature, and seeking innovative ways to do so, so that we can celebrate the hope that these areas bring.

The changes of the last year, such as our in-house rebranding, alongside looking to the future as we move into the final year of our current strategy, seemed like the ideal opportunity to also look back at how far we've come. In the following pages you will find stories of what your support can bring, from an island in the Philippines, to a wetland in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, to a corridor of trees in India. The extraordinary changes we have seen over the past 30 years show just what can be achieved with time and dedication, and I hope you share the optimism it gives me for what we might see in the next 30 years.

At WLT, we speak often of the importance of our community, because our impact comes from the bringing together of people from all over the planet, from all walks of life, with a common goal: to preserve land and protect wildlife for the good of the planet. Advised by a Conservation Advisory Panel of some of the most accomplished minds in conservation, and governed by an unwaveringly dedicated board of trustees, our community of scientists, donors, staff, artists, brands, activists, musicians, and, above all, our conservation partners create 'actions that lead to incredible chain reactions' that ripple throughout the world.

This newsletter showcases the extraordinary wildlife we help protect, from a tiny Patagonian frog to a six-foot-long otter in Ecuador; the reach of our work, from staff contributing to global research to partners helping to pass a new environmental protection law; and the richness of the community you as a supporter are a part of.

I hope you enjoy reading about the work that your support makes possible.

Dr Catherine Barnard, CEO

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Positive News

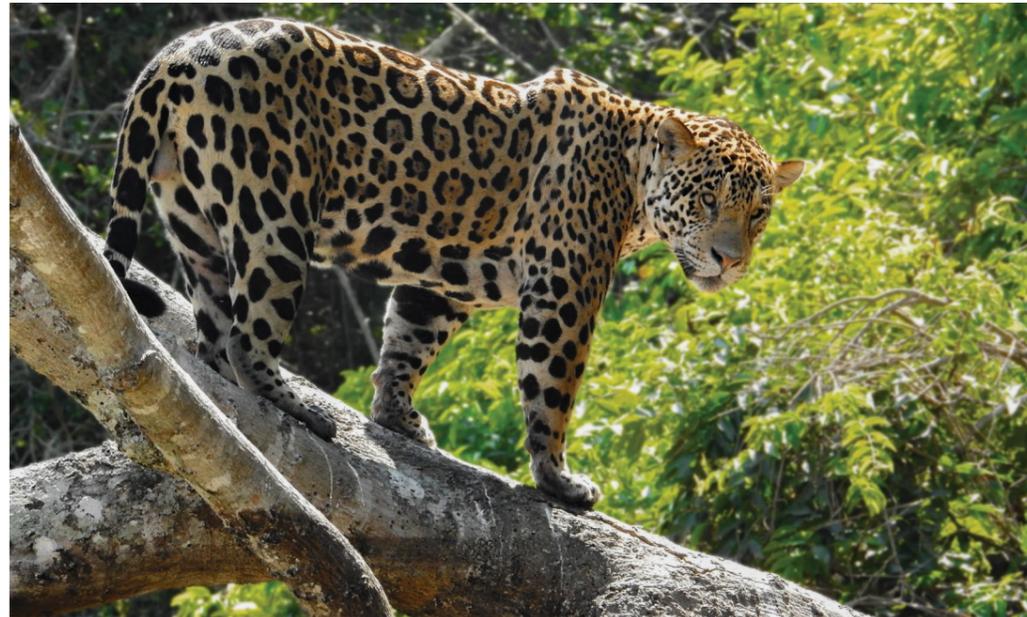
from the Field



A groundbreaking new study published in *Frontiers in Science*, with contributions from World Land Trust (WLT) conservationists Richard Cuthbert and Charlotte Beckham suggested that protecting just 1.2% of the Earth's land surface area, via the targeted protection of 16,825 sites, could prevent the imminent extinction of thousands of the world's most threatened species. The research lends scientific support for the approach adopted by WLT and similar organisations, and will



help guide our future conservation efforts. **Scan the QR to read the full story.**



Fundación Jocotoco are undertaking wonderful work in the first scientific laboratory in the middle of Ecuador's Chocó Forest. The laboratory is developing new and innovative methods of studying the intersections of species such as Jaguar, Giant Anteater, and Peccary within the forest to discover the best ways in which to help them thrive. The laboratory is within the WLT-backed Canande Reserve and will help to conserve the wildlife safeguarded by the reserve.

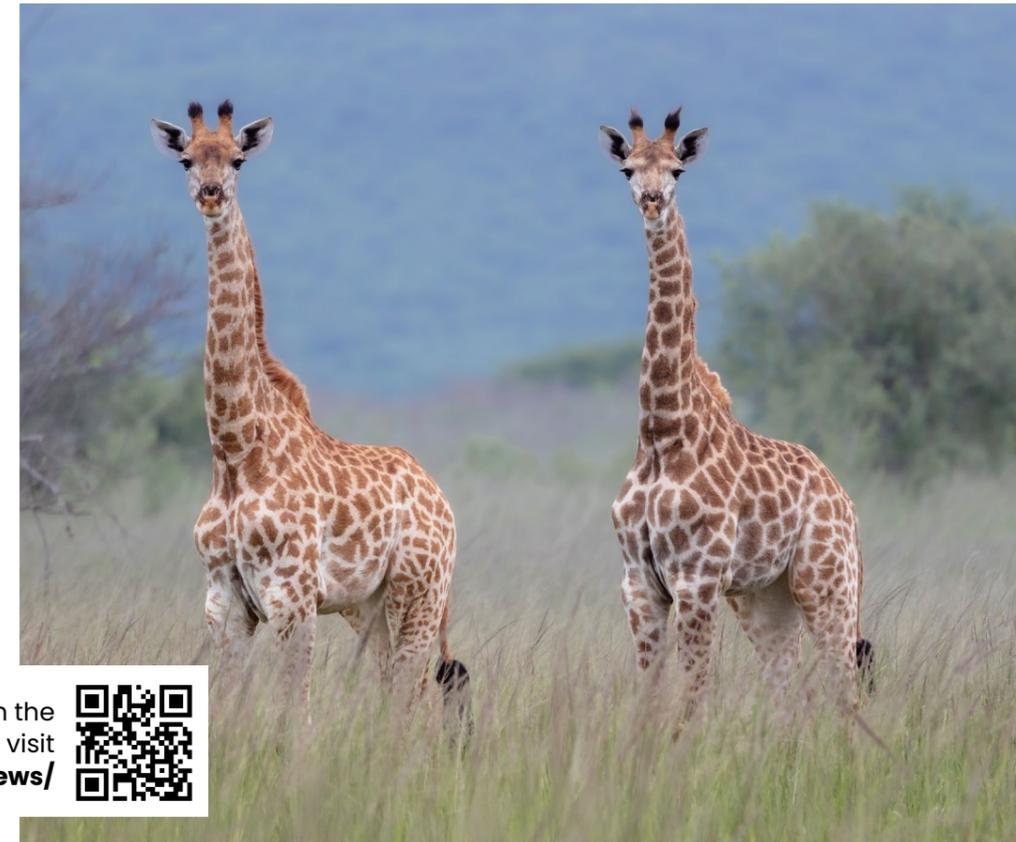
Grupo Ecological Sierra Gorda (GESG) managed to save an Endangered Bell Salamander and its eggs from perishing in a wildfire as its den was spared thanks to the fire break that was managed and defended by rangers. WLT's Carbon Balanced programme supports the GESG fire brigade in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve and, so far this year, no fires have occurred in the GESG reserve areas themselves. Climate change and extreme drought in the region over the last few years has increased the frequency and intensity of forest fires but, in this instance, an endangered salamander will go on to hatch its young.



On this spring's International Biodiversity Day, a momentous achievement was reached as the Kaetés Private Natural Heritage Reserve (RPPN) was officially created. A result of years of dedicated work by our Brazilian partner Instituto Marcos Daniel (IMD), the reserve's recognition as a private reserve will provide additional levels of protection for the habitats of hundreds of species including the Critically Endangered Cherry-throated Tanager.



Two giraffes were born in the space of less than two weeks to the giraffe population reintroduced at Wild Tomorrow's Greater Ukuwela Nature Reserve. According to recent findings of giraffe behaviour, females in a group will synchronise birth and raise their young in creches together. Giraffes will also nurse each other's calves, and the siblings will grow up together, playing and forming bonds.



For more news stories from the field scan the code or visit www.worldlandtrust.org/news/



Partner Postcards

Supported by our Keepers of the Wild programme, rangers are the heart of conservation and carry out the vital work undertaken by our conservation partners and made possible with the help of WLT's funding. In Armenia, Foundation for the Preservation of Cultural Assets (FPWC) rangers, shared with us what their work involves and what it means to be a ranger.



Boris Vanyan, Ranger

Barev dzez, I am Boris and, for the last seven years, I have worked as a ranger in FPWC.

Our mission is to conserve wildlife, and it is a mission I believe in wholeheartedly. I think to become a ranger, a deep passion is needed – one must love nature and be courageous, dedicated and above all, enthusiastic. I am currently working in the Bear Rescue Centre within the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, which now also houses an aviary for the Bearded Vulture. Here, we are monitoring and studying everything about the vultures, focusing on breeding activities to help them increase their numbers.

Bari luys! My name is Manuk, I work as a ranger for FPWC and I would like to tell you about the best parts of my job.



Manuk Manukyan, Ranger and reserve Coordinator

One of the aspects I most love is patrolling the site on horseback. Each day, we take the horses out as they are more suited to the terrain than any vehicle and less disruptive to wildlife. We explore the wilderness and monitor each area periodically, observing the animals, conducting counts, studying their behaviour, learning their movement patterns, and discovering nesting and breeding sites. I think to be an excellent ranger all you need is to love your work and work hard. I like my job- that is all I can say!

Barev dzez, I am Vahik! I work in the Vayots Dzor district of the Caucasus Wildlife Reserve.



Vahik Grigoryan, Ranger

Our main focus is nature conservation, aiming to preserve our natural heritage which includes all the remarkable flora and fauna within the refuge. Our goal is to preserve the nature and biodiversity inherited from our grandparents and pass it on to the next generation, so that they know just how important it is to protect the natural world.

We also heard from Marcelo and Adair of Fundación Proyecto Tití (FPT) in Colombia's tropical dry forest, whose work is supported by WLT's Keepers of the Wild programme.

Buenos Dias!

Good morning to all my friends of World Land Trust. My name is Marcelo Ortega and I am the restoration coordinator at the Fundación Proyecto Tití Los Titiés de San Juan Reserve. I would like to take you on a tour with my team and show you what a day as an FPT ranger looks like.



Acompañenos –join us – on a tour of the reserve where we are venturing into the great tropical dry forest! We begin at the Luis Soto Interpretation Centre. We usually hold meetings and gatherings with visitors and donors here to show them the large map that shows all the vegetation coverage of the reserve and all the forest areas we are protecting. From here we will head into the forest and make our way to the Yepes Plantation area where we are working on an intensive restoration strategy.

As we begin along the trail, we can see and hear that some pollinators are taking advantage of the blooming flowers, and many trees are in their fruiting season. This attracts a great deal of seed-dispersing animals like birds, bats, and rodents. In turn, these animals will attract small reptiles, snakes, and lizards. In the forest, there is so much interaction among the various

organisms, the ecosystem is always at work. As a ranger, my daily work involves ensuring the protection of various trees. Many of the trees are marked with colour-coded numbers, such as the great Camajón tree and, next to it, the Tutomo tree. These trees are marked as being of significant biological importance because of their consistent fruit production from which we obtain seeds to propagate the species in our nursery.

The Yepes plantation is a 50-minute walk away and, as we venture further into the Great Tropical Dry Forest, we can observe how the vegetation cover changes as we approach what is known as a riparian forest or a gallery forest. Another of our tasks as rangers is the identification of parent trees. One of these is the large Mamon de María tree which serves as a refuge for the Cotton-top Tamarin. We collect the seedlings of this tree to plant and propagate and expand the forest. With the increase in rain, our daily work becomes a little more difficult as trails become clogged with thick mud, making for some interesting working conditions!

After a long walk through intense heat, we reach our destination. Here, we are in the strategic centre of the Yepes plantation, where we gather the



saplings from the nursery ready for planting and meet with field assistant Aldair Luna, another of our wonderful rangers.

Hola, my name is Aldair Luna and I have been a field assistant for six years, working with this wonderful team, doing this amazing work. Each day, we fall more in love with what we do, helping these saplings to adapt to the forest and benefit our beloved Cotton-top Tamarin. One of my duties is to identify areas of coverage for where we will plant. Before each planting, we conduct a thorough coverage study to determine what strategy we will use- it's not just planting for the sake of planting. This was a highly degraded area used for livestock grazing for a long time, and we are now undertaking intensive restoration to provide food and shelter for not only the Cotton-top Tamarin but also for all other animals of the forest. The future forest will be wonderful, and it will be amazing to walk through this entire area.

Thank-you very much for your support and help, without you, this would not be possible.



Preserving the Forests of Kenya's Coast

The East African coastal forest region is a mosaic of biodiversity, stretching along the Kenyan coast, where the roots of tropical forests reach the sands of the sparkling Indian Ocean. Within this mosaic is Kilifi County's Dakatcha Woodland, a forest habitat so vital it is supported by not one but two WLT partners through Buy an Acre.

Partnerships to change the World

For over a century, Nature Kenya has been committed to preserving and promoting Kenya's incredible biodiversity as part of the East Africa Natural History Society – the continent's oldest conservation organisation. Likewise, A Rocha Kenya (ARK), fosters a nexus of people dedicated to the natural landscape, from indigenous communities to national governments.

Since partnering with WLT in 2009 and 2021 respectively, Nature Kenya's and ARK's work in Dakatcha Woodland has been supported by regular donations to the Action Fund by our amazing WLT Friends. This work can now be supported through WLT's Buy an Acre programme; Dakatcha Woodland will be further protected with ARK's 1,274 ha (3,148 acre) expansion to the A Rocha Dakatcha Nature Reserve and 500 ha (1,235 acres) of the newly established Nature Kenya Kibaoni Nature Reserve and other reserves.

Having seen first-hand the incredible work of these two partners, WLT's Conservation Programmes Manager Mercy Kariuki shared some of her experiences at this unique habitat: "The Programmes team at WLT carry out site visits to keep updated with what is happening on the ground with our partners. It is an incredibly important part of our work – to see the impact that we are having in project sites.

Of course, it's always special to see how much of a difference our supporters are making in their respective contexts. But it also reminded me how rich Kenya is in biodiversity and how significant its contributions are to biodiversity conservation and our global natural heritage. The first place I went to was the Dakatcha Woodland where our partners ARK and Nature Kenya work. This is one of the world's top ten most threatened forest hotspots and is host to thirteen IUCN Red Listed species."

The Owl and the Weaver

Dakatcha Woodland's sprawling canopy of red-leafed Miombo trees, scattered with thickets of impenetrable evergreen Mfunda trees and scrubland, creates the perfect environment for more than 220 bird species. The spectacular Fischer's Turaco can be found among the branches throughout the year, and the dry season sees flocks of international migratory birds such as Eurasian Roller, Nightingale, and Spotted Flycatcher.

However, the woodland's most threatened residents are three species so rare that without Dakatcha they could face extinction. The area's seasonal wetlands, brimming with sedge and grasses, provide the only known nesting sites in the world for the Endangered Clarke's Weaver. The forest is also one of the only homes of the Sokoke Pipit and in 2024, ARK came across a roosting site for the tiny Sokoke Scops Owl along a new trail within their reserve, which is home to the only Kenyan population of the species outside of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to the south.

Time is of the Essence

Despite its ecological significance, the trees of this once thriving forest are without formal protection and are being felled at an unprecedented rate. Large-scale commercial farming is sweeping away the borders of the forest to make way for pineapple plantations, while the remaining trees are at risk of illegal logging to meet the ever-increasing demand for charcoal production. As a result of these and other threats, around 90% of the Coastal Forests of eastern Africa have already been lost.

The land that Nature Kenya and ARK will secure with the help of WLT supporters will preserve a safe harbour for the extraordinary wildlife within Dakatcha Woodland. As well as the land purchases, both our partners work with the local people who are the custodians of the landscape and rely on it for wood, water, and medicine. To many, the forests represent the richness of the traditional culture, and so, Nature Kenya are creating separate Community Conservation Areas (CCA's) that will merge conservation actions with sustainable livelihoods across the region.

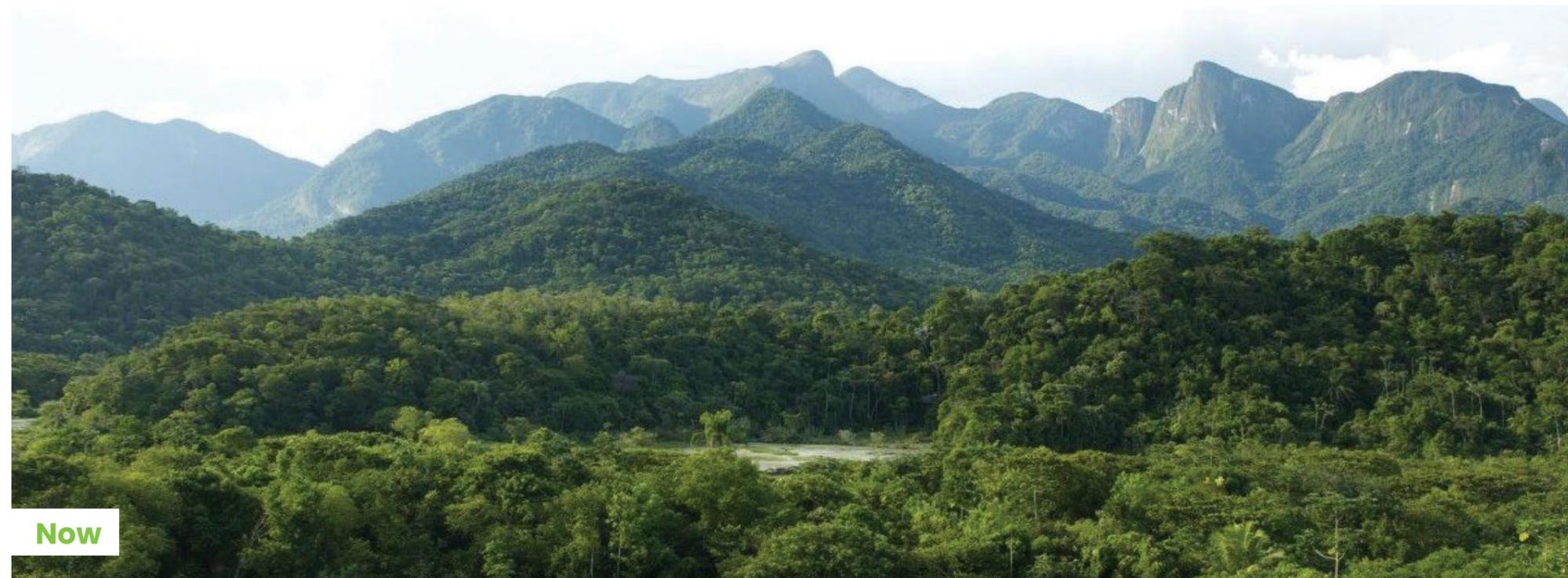
Mercy told us "Here, small groups are formed within different villages which then make up a larger community conservation group. Most of the people in these groups want to continue protecting these areas because they know that, beyond the bigger-picture importance of nature conservation, they will benefit as they are connected to these ecosystems for their wellbeing, livelihoods and so on. Tourism is also important in many cases which is integral to livelihoods and income generation and so people don't want to see the habitats degraded."

"I would say that Nature Kenya's local community programme is a beacon of inspiration."

REGUA

Then and Now

Having been partnered with Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA) for almost 20 years, WLT has the privilege of seeing the long-term transformation of Brazil's Atlantic Forest in the land owned and managed by REGUA. In 2002, restoration of the wetland at REGUA began and today, we can see just what can happen when nature is protected and helped to thrive.



The Burning Issue of Wildfires

In some ecosystems fire is an essential catalyst for nature: from bursting seed pods to clearing brush, it can reset the clock for ecosystems, burning away the old and giving the new a chance to thrive from the ashes. But, as global temperatures rise, droughts worsen, and dry seasons intensify, one of the most destructive threats to landscapes is uncontrolled wildfires. Easily started from a tiny spark, once they take hold it is a momentous task to stop them.

Wildfires are a natural phenomenon, but their frequency and intensity seen around the world today are not, and keeping on top of their effects requires forward planning and rapid action. Our partner Asociación Armonía has been remarkably successful in completely safeguarding Barba Azul Nature Reserve from formidable fires springing up due to more and more prolonged dry seasons. In one recent memorable instance, two lightning strikes – brought by storms that are also becoming stronger and more frequent – ignited the parched savannah. With the help of reserve guards Jhulian Machuca and Raul Rojas, both trained firefighters, the two fires were quickly tackled – one dangerously close to the Blue-throated Macaw main foraging forest island. Thanks to the vigilance of Asociación Armonía's staff, these events that could easily have become disasters were swiftly averted and only 3.7 ha (9 acres) of Cerrado and 29.4 ha (73 acres) of grassland was affected.

One of the most crucial proactive measures of wildfire management is strategically placed firebreaks that create a gap in vegetation and cut off the path of fires. It was from these almost 30-mile-long patrolled lines that the first fire out in the grassland was spotted and vigilantly monitored until it could be contained. In the future, Asociación Armonía plans to build a fire observation tower to detect threats even more quickly and prevent as much damage as possible.

Development Director at Asociación Armonía Bennett Hennessey told us: "Despite these tough conditions, our team managed to keep the situation under control, largely due to the preparedness of our park guards and the resources and equipment we have been obtained thanks to the support of many people organizations throughout the years." No fires spread within the reserve this time, but as the earth continues to heat up, so will the landscape. Many of our partners, such as Fundação Kissama in Angola's Afromontane Forest also use similar strategies for defending habitats from uncontrolled wildfires, and it is through the support of appeals such as our Action Fund that our partners can continue to fight the threats.

World Land Trust's Conservation Advisory Panel: The Experts Behind the Advice

'Helping people around the world protect and restore their land to safeguard biodiversity and the climate'. That is our mission, and at WLT, each and every one of the projects we support is carefully considered and ensured to directly align with that mission. To help make this a reality, WLT is supported by some of the most esteemed conservation minds we could hope for through our Conservation Advisory Panel (CAP) so our supporters can rest assured that their donations will have the most impact possible.

Meet the members



The Conservation Advisory Panel is chaired by WLT trustee **Professor Andrew Balmford**, UK Professor of Conservation Science at the University of Cambridge. Having helped establish the university's Conservation Forum and Student Conference on Conservation Science, he is also Principal Investigator for Tanzania's Valuing the Arc programme.



Director of Science at the UK's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, **Dr Alexandre Antonelli** is a Brazilian botanist who currently heads a team of over 500 scientists working in more than 100 countries to curate the world's largest collections of plants and fungi. He also holds positions at the Universities of Gothenburg and Oxford, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



With more than 25 years in conservation, Ugandan environmental scientist and ornithologist **Dr Julius Arinaitwe** served as Regional Director for Africa and then Global Director for BirdLife International Secretariat and is currently creating a social enterprise to enhance ecosystem restoration in Kabale, Uganda.



Alistair Gammell's involvement in the conservation world spans more than four decades. Having worked internationally with the RSPB and BirdLife, Alistair's role as the UK Director for Pew Environment Group's Global Ocean Legacy campaign contributed to 2010's monumental declaration of the Chagos Marine Protected Area.



Executive Director of Global Greengrants Fund UK, **Dr Nisha Owen** chairs the IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force and serves as a Trustee of the London Learning Foundation. Having previously held the role of Director of Conservation at On the EDGE Conservation, she helped develop the Zoological Society of London's EDGE of Existence programme and created initiatives with United for Wildlife and National Geographic Society.



Dr Madhu Rao is currently the elected Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Responsible for advocating for global and national systems of protected areas on land and under water, the commission is a global authority on the protection of the natural world. She is also a Senior Advisor with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS), with publications on protected area policy and, species conservation, human wildlife conflict, conservation governance.



Venezuelan ecologist and evolutionary biologist **Dr Jon Paul Rodríguez** is Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. President and co-founder of the NGO Provita, he is a Professor at the Center for Ecology of the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Investigations.



Professor Dominick Spracklen is a UK Professor of Biosphere-Atmosphere Interactions at the University of Leeds and a scientific advisor for the United Bank of Carbon. In 2004, Dominick helped to develop WLT's Carbon Balanced programme and has since collaborated on our carbon projects in Ecuador, Paraguay and Vietnam.

Seeing is Believing

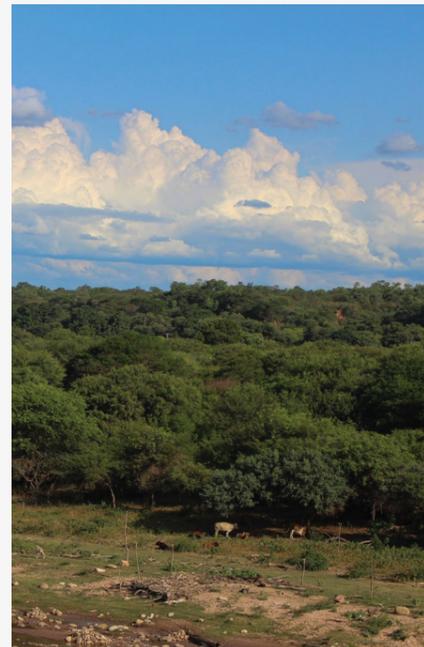
WLT Trustee and CAP Chair Professor Andrew Balmford observes the work of WLT's partners first-hand

Earlier this year, as part of a sabbatical to South America, Andrew had the opportunity to visit several WLT-backed reserves and speak with our partners about their projects. He began at the Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), one of the largest and longest-standing reserves supported by WLT. REGUA has a catalogue of innovative projects, one of which, Andrew observed, was the first successful reintroduction of Lowland Tapir in the state of Rio de Janeiro where REGUA is located. Reintroductions are tricky, but Andrew observed that the hugely energetic nature of the entire organisation brought an optimism that made their tremendous successes unsurprising; this year a seventh Tapir was born to the reserve. "The Locke family, who manage the reserve, are local themselves and are deeply embedded in the local community and their passion for the area shows in their dedication to their work" explains Andrew.

Further north in Brazil in Espírito Santo State, Andrew visited the Kaetés Reserve, created by Instituto Marcos Daniel (IMD), and supported by WLT since 2023 to expand the reserve. Famous as the home of the Critically Endangered Cherry-throated Tanager, one of their initiatives for long-term success is promoting sustainable tourism at the reserve. As many parcels of land are under threat from the development of luxury holiday homes, IMD's local roots mean the organisation knows all of the local landowners, knows what motivates them, and so are best placed to advocate for the sustainable use of the land – so much so that landowners are now coming directly to IMD with the desire to turn their land into protected areas.

Another stop was in southeast Bolivia's Gran Chaco, where WLT partners Fundación Natura Bolivia (Natura) and Nativa Bolivia (Naturaleza, Tierra y Vida) (Nativa) are both working to preserve the second largest forest in South America. It is one of the few places of truly intact 'wilderness' left on earth. Despite the scale of this ecosystem, it is under imminent threat and 20% has been lost in the last 20 years. Andrew noted this as a prime example of WLT's mission to preserve the most biodiverse and threatened habitats in the world – our partners are working in places under truly exceptional threat and without their steadfast commitment, would be lost forever.

Having seen firsthand the work that WLT's partners are doing, Andrew saw a common theme. "These organisations are run by people who are passionate about where they live and what they do, the work means everything to them. They are admirably professional, innovative, entrepreneurial, and creative in everything they do, and it shows in their successes. All the people have strong local roots, and I was continually amazed by their commitment and optimism to improving the world for nature and for the people around them".



A World of Discoveries

The reserves and protected areas managed by WLT's partners are some of the most biodiverse habitats in the world. Every day extraordinary sights are seen by rangers, camera traps, and researchers, here is just a tiny glimpse of the wildlife safeguarded by our partners' projects.



- 1** A South American Grey Fox caught on camera at Conservación de Anfibios A.C.'s (Anfibios A.C.) Cuetzalan Cloud Forest Amphibian Sanctuary in Mexico's Puebla State.
- 2** Asociación Ecológica de San Marcos de Ocotepeque (AESMO) recorded the Hairy-legged Vampire Bat during cave surveys in Honduras.
- 3** A female Jaguar was captured on camera by FUNDAECO making the distinctive 'sawing' growl.
- 4** Fundación ProAves' Nemesio Andrés Gulfo encountered a brand-new bird species, provisionally being called the 'El Dorado Antpitta', in the El Dorado Reserve.
- 5** Marañón White-fronted Capuchin monkeys spotted in the trees of Amazónicos por la Amazonía's (AMPA) Bajo Huallaga Concession.
- 6** *Pristimantis normaewingae*, a new frog species was found in EcoMinga's Cerro Candelaria Reserve.
- 7** Naturaleza y Cultura Peru (NCP) filmed Spectacled Bear cubs at a private conservation areas (ACP) in the cloud forest of northern Peru.
- 8** Wild Tomorrow found a nest of Nile Crocodile eggs on a riverbank recently cleared of invasive plants.
- 9** Overberg Renosterveld Trust's (ORT) Dr Odette Curtis Scott spotted a Rainbow Cuckoo Wasp in a patch of Renosterveld.
- 10** The presence of Anosy Mouse Lemur and the Geoffrey's Dwarf Lemur in Missouri Botanical Garden's (MBG) Ankarabolava-Agnakatrika Forest Protected Area was confirmed by lemur expert Dr Marina Blanco.

I recently visited a number of organisations in the Philippines and was fortunate enough to be able to coincide my trip with a visit to Danjugan Island. Meeting the team from PRRCFI and seeing the great condition of Danjugan's forests and reefs confirmed the value of WLT's decision to support this project 30 years ago, and the incredible work and passion of our partners in restoring and protecting these sites.

Richard Cuthbert, Director of Conservation

Danjugan Island

30 Years On

At World Land Trust, our aim is to protect land in perpetuity. Casting our glance back to the very first projects that WLT supported, we can see if our aim is being fulfilled.

The story of Danjugan Island begins for us in 1993, when WLT was alerted to the situation on the island. The Philippines is one of Earth's few megadiverse countries; 85% of its amphibians and more than half of its reptiles and mammals are endemic to the island nation, whose

rainforests, volcanic valleys, mangroves, and coral reefs are home to more than 50,000 species. However, the beauty of the Philippines many islands has made it a staggeringly popular tourist destination. Thanks to the ensuing development of tourist resorts, particularly on the coasts, coupled with palm and sugarcane plantations, the country's deforestation rates have at times ranked among the world's fastest in the past 30 years. Now, very little remains of the rainforests that

once lined the shores from the volcanic hills all the way to the breakwaters.

And so, in 1994, WLT helped to establish the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc (PRRCFI), and the purchase of Danjugan Island became the third project that WLT supported. The island, off the west coast of the much larger Negros Island in the southwest Philippines, spans only 43 ha (106 acres). But despite its small size, it is home

to a stunning array of wildlife, from the Philippine Flying Fox to more than 80 bird species that nestle in Danjugan's green canopy. The crystalline waters and coral reefs are crowded with over 700 species of fish and other sea life such as Green Turtle.

The entire island is now protected by PRRCFI and has needed little support from WLT over the last 30 years. Danjugan creates some income from ecotourism but, for the past 25

years, PRRCFI has made a name for itself running educational camps, promoting conservation and biodiversity to groups from throughout the Philippines and internationally. They have answered the question of how an organisation can make a project self-sustaining. Having faced countless challenges over the years, as all small organisations do, they have persevered, and the hard work has truly paid off with the preservation of this island haven for nature.



The Fruits of the Baheda Tree

In the flat floodplains of the Brahmaputra River, WLT has been working with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) since 2019 to create a safe passage for India's largest population of Asian Elephant in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Through our Plant a Tree programme, WLT and WTI have worked together with the Adi and Mishing people of the region to restore the D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Corridor and create freedom of movement for more than 500 Asian Elephant.

Lying between the foothills of the Himalayas and the banks of the vast Brahmaputra River, the valley's dappled floodplain is a hotspot for biodiversity, but more than 85% of it has been taken over by farming. With the region's forests paying the price for the agricultural shift, Plant a Tree supporters have now helped plant over 110,000 new trees to restore 150 ha of forest land, and WTI are planning to restore a further 50 ha in the coming planting season. Among these trees is *Terminalia bellirica*, known locally, among other names, as the Baheda tree.

Standing 30m tall in the grassy plains and low hills of their native India and southeast Asia, mature Baheda trees create a canopy of shade

with the clusters of pale green oval leaves crowded at the ends of their branches. Thriving in the tropical climate of the D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Corridor these trees are revered in traditional Indian Ayurvedic medicine. It is in their orange, five-sided fruits that their intriguing uses are found. Baheda is one of the three ingredients in the herbal medicine triphala central to Ayurvedic balance and wellbeing, believed to heal disease, lengthen lifespan, and clear the mind. With all these properties, the Baheda tree, with 3,500 saplings planted since 2021, is just one of the dozens of native tree species planted in the restoration phase of the project.

Tree-planting to restore these habitats is only one part of the plan, WTI is also working to create a 1,420-ha Community Conserved Area with the people of Mer, Paglam, and Namsing villages. These areas will see the local people steward the protection of the land as well as receiving the benefits of a thriving ecosystem. A forest is so much more than the sum of its trees, and each element of our Plant a Tree project combines to create a sustainable pathway for people and wildlife to coexist into the future.



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Otters of Orellana

It is no secret that the Amazon Rainforest is one of the most phenomenally biodiverse places on earth. Perhaps the most famous tropical rainforest in the world, it covers most of the Amazon Basin of South America. The hundreds of rivers and streams that meander through the Amazon Basin and feed the rainforest are no less impressive. From Pink River Dolphin and Amazonian Manatee to Arrau River Turtle and Warty Leaf Frog, the waters are abundant with life. One of the most captivating species to inhabit these rivers is the Giant Otter, scientifically known as *Pteronura brasiliensis*.

Reaching up to six feet long from nose to tail, the Giant Otter is an apex predator. Using their webbed feet and long, muscular tails, they can chase after and agilely catch their prey. They do not shy away from a challenge — feasting on all kinds of fish, including Piranha, they are even known to successfully take on small Caiman and Anaconda. But as well as being fearsome hunters, the otters are a friendly, social species. As they float along in the gentler river currents, they can be heard communicating to each other with at least nine distinct calls, including whistles, hums, growls, and the occasional screech if needed.

The riverbanks of the Amazon are lined with clusters of dens with tunnels leading to different entrances, built by the otter to house their families. Each den may be lived in by a group of up to 10 otters — a pair and several years of their offspring. Each otter also has a unique pattern of cream markings on their throat and chest standing out from the rest of their slick brown fur, the patterns of which are often similar within families. The Giant Otter is Endangered globally and Critically Endangered in Ecuador where, with the help of our autumn appeal, our partner Nature and Culture in Ecuador (NCE) are working to protect the Amazon Rainforests of Ecuador's Orellana Province from habitat destruction and safeguard the incredible species within them.



10 Reasons the El Rincón Stream Frog is a Fascinating Amphibian

Small Frog, Big Name

The El Rincón Steam Frog is relatively small for a frog, growing to only 3–4 cm in length and is scientifically named *Pleurodema somuncurens* after its high-altitude home in Argentina's remote and rugged volcanic Somuncurá Plateau.

Tiny Territories

These frogs are micro-endemics, found only in the headwaters of the Arroyo Valcheta stream fed by the Somuncurá plateau's hot springs. Their extremely small range makes them uniquely vulnerable to habitat loss.

Water Lovers

Unlike many other amphibians, these frogs spend almost their entire lives in water. Rarely venturing onto land, they are adapted to the cosy and stable environment of the warm streams that let them survive the harsh, dry winters of the region.

Camouflage Experts

Their mottled brown and green skin helps them blend perfectly with the pebbles and plants of their watery home, making them masters of disguise from the invasive Rainbow Trout that prey upon them.

Life in Slow Motion

The frogs lay their eggs in the stream water, where warm temperatures from the hot springs help the tadpoles develop faster than most other amphibians.

Endangered but Endearing

The species is Critically Endangered and part of Zoological Society of London's TOP 100 Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) worldwide ranking of extinction-facing amphibians.

Threatened but Persistent

The frogs are at risk from habitat destruction, livestock farming, and removal of their water sources, but, thanks to conservation action, they are surviving.

An Elusive Friend

Because of its incredible rarity, we know very little about the frog's lifecycle, behaviour, and ecology. By protecting its one and only home, we can hope to learn more about this fascinating species as its population grows.

Flagship Species

With help from WLT's Buy an Acre programme, our partner Fundación Hábitat y Desarrollo (FH&D) aims to safeguard this and many other species by expanding the first privately protected reserve the Somuncurá Plateau has ever seen.

Quiet Neighbors

Unlike many frog species that can be identified and tracked down by their loud croaks, the El Rincón Steam Frog is a quiet resident, preferring the serene sounds of its watery home, with only the males making the occasional mating call.



This project is featured in a photography book **'100% (Ciento por Ciento)'** by Colin Dodgson made in partnership with the WLT and WLT Ambassador Jonny Lu. The book is available for purchase and 100% of the profits will go to WLT.



The Power of Indigenous Conservation

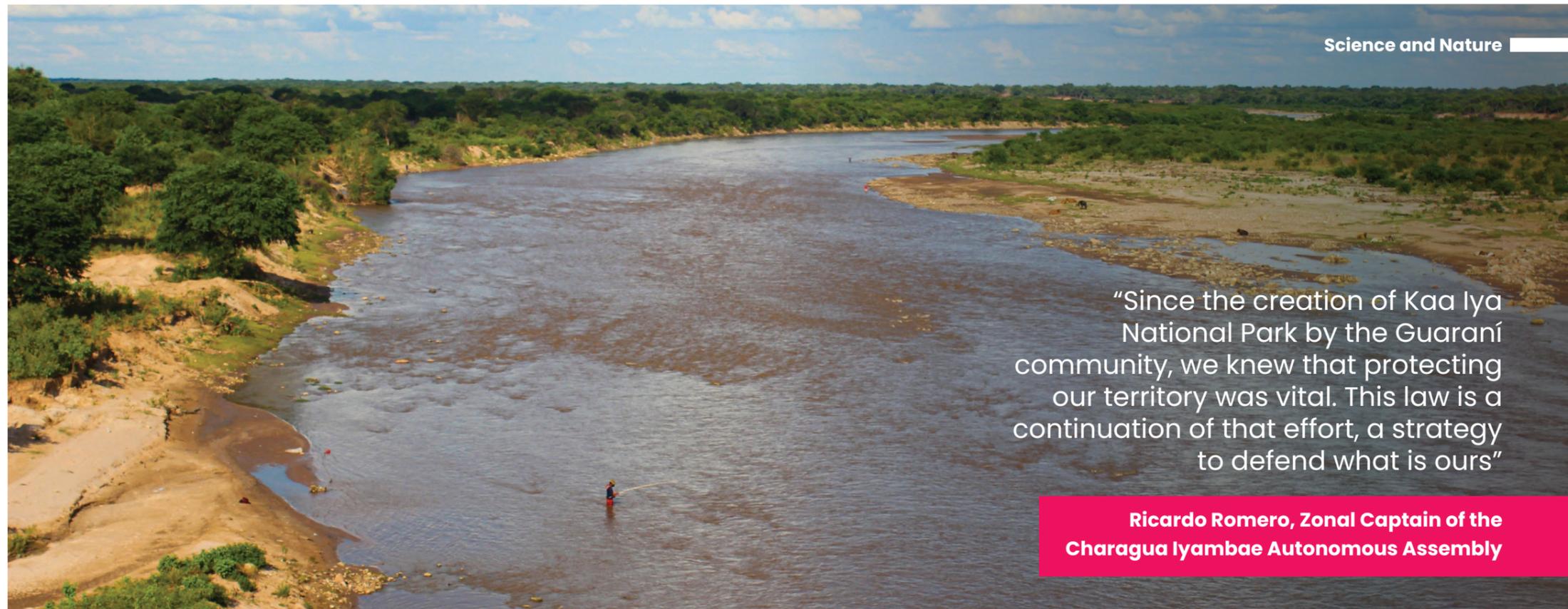
Natura and Nativa involved in creating a groundbreaking new law

On 23rd July 2024, after six years of intense collaboration, a momentous new protected area law was finally passed in Bolivia through the combined dedication of the Guaraní Indigenous communities and WLT-partners Fundación Natura Bolivia (Natura) and Nativa Bolivia (Naturaleza, Tierra y Vida) (Nativa). This marks a historic milestone for both the Guaraní Indigenous people and the wildlife in this wilderness area of the Gran Chaco.

This law, known as the Charagua Iyambae Protected Areas Law will strengthen protection of five million hectares (12.4 million acres) of forest land in Charagua Iyambae, a region home to, and managed by, the Guaraní Indigenous people. This region falls within the Gran Chaco, a vast plain of dry, tropical lowland forests, marbled with rivers and seasonal floodplains and home to more than 3,400 species of plant, 500 birds, and 150 mammals.

“This law is our hope for the future. It is the tool we need to protect our land and ensure that future generations can enjoy the same resources we did. It is a legacy we will leave for our children and grandchildren.”

Lucía Sánchez, vice-president of the Charagua Iyambae Autonomous Assembly

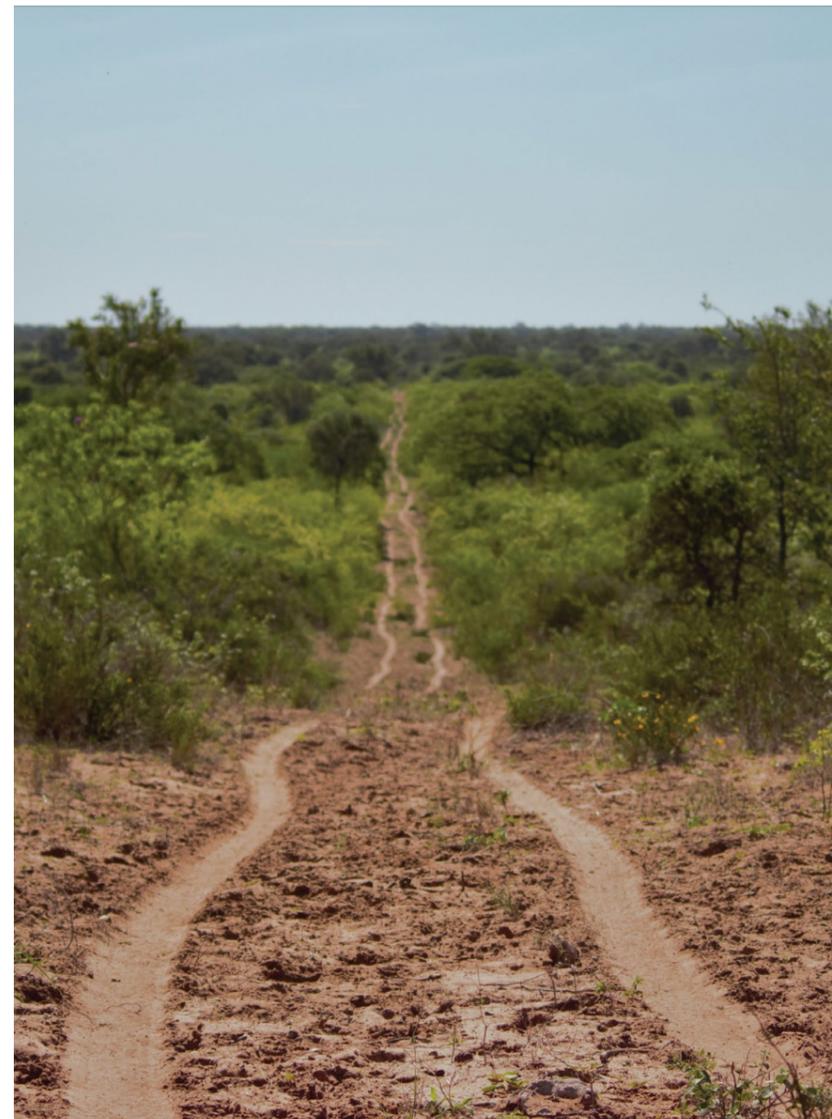


“Since the creation of Kaa Iya National Park by the Guaraní community, we knew that protecting our territory was vital. This law is a continuation of that effort, a strategy to defend what is ours”

Ricardo Romero, Zonal Captain of the Charagua Iyambae Autonomous Assembly

Though the region is home to five protected areas, it has suffered from a lack of true conservation action on the ground and is continuously threatened by forest fires pushed by agricultural expansion. WLT’s Senior Conservation Programmes Manager Charlotte Beckham explains: “By providing the Guaraní communities with a single legal framework across the entire Charagua region, this new law gives the Guaraní greater power to safeguard the Gran Chaco’s land and wildlife. We’d like to congratulate all involved in this collaborative process and leading example of community led conservation”.

The law was first proposed by Indigenous leaders in 2018. Formed from the grassroots up, it sets a precedent around the essential need for democracy in conservation on Indigenous lands. More inspiringly, it is a reflection of the Indigenous worldview in which we as humans are intricately connected to the natural world. Líder Céspedes, a Guaraní legislator, explains “We start from the Yaiko Kavi Pave, our vision of living well, and this is not as the Karai (non-Indigenous) world often understands it, to be living in comfort, but it is about “yemboete” or respect, respect for the whole and the whole is everything that nature brings. And this vision of living well is captured in the new protected area law”.





The Saker in the Snow

Located in the remote highlands of northern Pakistan is the Bashqar Gol Biosphere Reserve. Sitting at an elevation of 1,800 metres to over 5,000 metres, this little-known protected area comprises everything from mountainous tundra and subalpine meadows to dense forests of Juniper and Deodar Cedar. These trees provide critical shelter for Brown Bears, Eurasian Lynx and the elusive Snow Leopard.

But this dramatic landscape is also home to the Saker Falcon. With its swift flight and exceptional hunting abilities, this falcon is one of the region's most skillful predators. A partial-migrant species, the falcon has breeding populations ranging from Central Europe to China which migrate south to sub-tropical Africa as winter approaches. During this journey, they pass through Bashqar Gol.

Predator of the Peaks

In the remote stillness of the reserve, the Saker Falcon can be seen gliding across the Laspur Valley, its brown-streaked plumage blending into the rocky surroundings. With a wingspan of over a meter, the Saker Falcon is one of the fastest birds in level flight, reaching speeds of up to 150 kilometres per hour. When prey is spotted far below, it

drops into a steep dive known as 'the stoop'. This is when the Saker Falcon becomes the third fastest bird in the world, accelerating to 170 kilometres per hour. Unlike the more well-known Peregrine Falcon, the Saker Falcon does not only specialise in rapid aerial pursuits but also hunts in meadows, gliding low in search of small mammals like Cape Hare. This versatility makes the Saker Falcon capable of thriving in many habitats, ranging from grassy plains to mountain ridges.

A nest thief

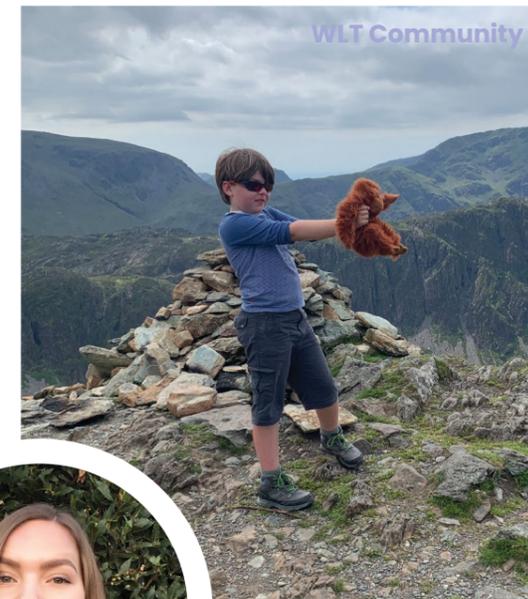
While many of Pakistan's Saker Falcon populations are migratory, there are also several resident populations which breed and nest in the region's isolated cliffs. Unusually, Saker Falcons do not build their own nests but instead help themselves to the abandoned nests of other large birds. When early spring arrives, the females lay three to five eggs which both parents take turns incubating and watching over for approximately 30 days before they hatch. Once hatched, the young falcons will fledge after around 50 days, learning to hunt and fly under their parents' watchful guidance. Several months later, they become fully independent and reach breeding age themselves at around three years of age.

Securing a bright future

Despite its hunting prowess, the Endangered Saker Falcon is threatened by habitat loss, electrocution from power lines, and illegal trapping for the falconry trade. For centuries, Bedouins and Mongolian nomads across Central Asia and the Middle East have relied on the Saker's strength and intelligence to hunt game across arid landscapes.

Bashqar Gol Biosphere Reserve was declared a protected area in 2023 through the work of Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF), led by conservationist Dr Ali Nawaz and his team, with support from WLT. SLF's work involves engaging local communities in conservation, promoting sustainable grazing practices and tackling human-wildlife conflict.

Through these measures, SLF is helping provide the Saker Falcon with a vast protected area where it can evade capture for the illegal falconry trade. This is a critical step to ensuring a future where the Saker Falcon can soar over Bashqar Gol's rugged mountains for many generations to come.



WLT's Fundraising and Engagement Manager Chloe Barnes reflects on what Individual Giving, Fundraising, and the WLT Community mean to her.

Every day, all around the world, WLT supporters are choosing to take individual action – the fundraisers participating in remarkable challenges, the donors generously contributing to our urgent appeals, the families donating in celebration of new arrivals and in memory of loved ones, and the WLT Friends making invaluable pledges of regular support – and are collectively making an extraordinary difference as part of the wider WLT community.

One instance that still stands out to me was in the summer of 2021. When young fundraiser Tobias read about our appeal that was running at the time to help our partner HUTAN expand existing protected Orangutan corridors in Malaysian Borneo, he decided that he needed to do something to help. Having been lucky enough to visit Borneo, Tobias remembered seeing the swathes of land that had been cleared for agriculture, land which "would once have been the rainforest home of orangutans and other amazing animals". So, Tobias set himself an ambitious challenge to climb a total of 4,095 m – equivalent to the height of Mount Kinabalu, Borneo's tallest mountain – to raise

£500 for the appeal. At the end of his trip, Tobias had achieved even more than he had thought possible: surpassing his climbing target and raising a truly amazing £1,100.

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of WLT supporters like Tobias, we continue to raise much needed funds to support our projects. HUTAN continue their work in the region and, just last year, completed their project to restore 45 ha of former oil palm plantation to forest at the Genting Wildlife Corridor with support from WLT's Plant a Tree programme. For me, this is just one example from my time at WLT of the long-lasting positive impact that can be made when individuals who have decided to take a stand for the planet come together.

Reflecting on these conservation successes that have been made possible through our collective action gives me hope in the face of the global biodiversity and climate crises. My determination to continue fighting for the future of our precious planet is renewed knowing that together, as part of an incredible network of WLT staff, partners and supporters, our voices and our impact are amplified.

Behind the Lens

An Interview with Wildlife Photographer Chantelle Melzer

A picture can be worth a thousand words. So much work and skill goes into creating our campaigns and WLT has the privilege of working with some of the best creative professionals to show our supporters what they are helping to protect. Award-winning wildlife photographer and videographer Chantelle Melzer tells us how she brought to life this year's Spring appeal: Connecting Ukuwela, in support of our partner Wild Tomorrow.

WLT: How do you plan your shoots?

Chantelle: I generally try to plan shoots as best I can around predicted weather conditions, as this can have an effect on animal behaviour and the quality of sightings as well as the footage captured. Lighting and the time of day is also an important factor to consider, so most shoots tend to start between 4:00am and 4:30am in the summer months - this makes a good cup of coffee a very welcome companion. I then create a shot list based on what is needed and then head out to see what I could get. At the end of the day, you never know what you will find - some days are simply more successful than others but, as a general rule, time and patience (and a good dose of luck) are key.

WLT: What were your highlights from photographing for the Connecting Ukuwela appeal?

Chantelle: There were actually a few moments that stand out as highlights but the one that eclipses the rest was getting my first shot of an African Leopard in KwaZulu-Natal. I have seen and photographed Leopards many times in a variety of different reserves and different countries but never before in my home province. To finally see and photograph a Leopard in KwaZulu-Natal was therefore something really amazing.

Another very interesting sighting we had while filming for the campaign was witnessing Cheetah attempting to hunt a Zebra foal within a herd which is something I've never seen before. They actually made three attempts before finally giving up - I think they were being a bit over-ambitious.

WLT: What are the most important skills needed to get the best shots and footage?

Chantelle: I have always had a keen interest in animal behaviour and I find that observing behaviour patterns can be very useful when it comes to



photographing and filming wildlife. Even if you lose sight of it, you can sometimes calculate more or less where it might appear again. Of course, nothing is guaranteed, and it does not always work but when it does work - this is probably where I end up getting the best shots. Another important aspect in observing behaviour is recognising an animal's comfort zone. Ideally, you want to place yourself in a position that is far enough away to observe the animal's natural behaviour and to try to not have any influence on this. Every individual (not just species) behaves differently in this regard so it's important to observe them and approach accordingly.

WLT: What role do you think wildlife photography has in conservation?

Chantelle: Wildlife photography can be a powerful tool to tell stories about animal behaviour, wildlife conservation, and habitat transformations. It can also be used to highlight the beauty of a particular subject, its importance and ecological role, and why it needs to be protected. Both positive and negative visuals can have a great impact on people's awareness, understanding, and emotions, and can trigger the desire to get more involved to try and help make a positive change.

"Photography and videography can help people feel a deeper connection to nature, which will hopefully spark the desire for them to want to protect it."

WLT: How do you feel reflecting back on your journey into wildlife photography?

Chantelle: I have always had a love for nature, even when I was young I wanted to find ways that I could use my skills to benefit nature conservation. So now to be involved in telling these incredible conservation stories is a dream come true. It has been a long road and I am very grateful to now be working with such amazing people. Seeing the positive impact they are making is truly inspiring and very motivating.



"Patience, it is extremely important to observe and allow a story to unfold, which can take several hours, rather than rushing from one subject onto the next."

Read, Listen, Learn

Continue your journey with these books, podcasts, and documentaries recommended by WLT staff

Books

- We Will Not Be Saved, Nemonte Nenquimo
- Silent Spring, Rachel Carson
- Rewild Yourself, Simon Barnes
- Sapiens, Yuval Noah Harari

Podcasts

- For What it's Earth, Emma Brisidion and Lloyd Hopkins
- The Wild, Chris Morgan
- Trees a Crowd, David Oakes
- Planet Pod, Amanda Carpenter

Documentaries

- Chasing Coral
- The Ivory Game
- RiverBlue
- The Serengeti Rules

The Sound of Nature

World Land Trust is privileged to be supported by a community made up of so many incredible people, and among them are our Ambassadors. These dedicated individuals serve as advocates for WLT and our mission, each sharing and supporting our message through their own endeavors. We spoke with WLT Ambassador, multi award-winning composer and musician Sarah Class. Supporters will recognise her beautiful music from campaigns such as last autumn's Colombia's Forests of Mist appeal which helped our partner Fundación Guanacas protect some of the last intact remnants of Colombia's montane cloud forest.

Others will remember 2021's Guardians of Nimla Ha' for which her song 'Resonate' was featured as the theme and which enabled our partner FUNDAECO to triple the size of the Laguna Grande Reserve in Carribbean Guatemala. Sarah explained "Resonate is a driving and emotive piece which thematically builds, giving a sense of 'time is of the essence'. The campaign video relates to the flora and fauna in the reserve area of Guatemala and the fragile ecosystem at risk from logging and other environmental disasters. This soundtrack is extremely special to me."

When asked what she hopes to convey through her work, Sarah told us **"A message of reassurance, of hope, and faith in a better future for our planet. Most of all in universal connection, because I feel music can convey the compassion needed to move us to protect our planet"**.

© Sarah Class



Have you ever wanted musical recommendations from one of the UK's most sought-after composers?

Sarah's love of classical music is inspired by melodies such as Mozart's 21st Piano Concerto and Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto while she credits her foray into composing and love of improvisation to the creative harmonies of early jazz greats such as Oscar Peterson, Scott Joplin, Bill Evans, and Fats Waller.

Having begun playing the piano at just age four, encouraged by her father's passion for classical music and Radio 3, Sarah's childhood home on a nature reserve on the Isle of Wight began her appreciation for nature and her decision to help protect it. She told us "I've always had a deep longing to blend my love of nature with that of music; to uplift people and try to affect change through my music. When I created my first Singer/Songwriter album Unity, I wanted it to be more than just be a collation of songs, I also wanted it to have a mission. That's when I found World Land Trust – a small charity making monumental change with tangible results in the world of conservation. I loved the way supporters can buy an acre of land and know that acre is protected forever along with all the endangered species and wildlife within it. As WLT patron Sir David Attenborough says, 'World Land Trust has more effect on the wild world than almost anything I can think of'".

Sarah's piece 'Rythm of the Earth' was personally requested for then-HRH Prince Charles' Terra Carta project, which premiered at COP26 in 2021. She was also specially commissioned to compose her piece 'Sacred Fire' for the King's Coronation last year. The piece was performed to great acclaim at Westminster Abbey on May 6th, 2023.



"This great desire to protect and conserve nature started very early on. Nature in itself is so incredibly creative, it inspires me musically, and I think its sense of freedom informs everything I do."

Partnering for the Planet

In the past several years, WLT's dynamic corporate community has grown and evolved in ways that inspire us every day and continues to develop as a strong network of partners championing nature.

Sustainability has always been at the forefront of conservation and environmental organisations, but to build a truly sustainable society and planet, it needs to be a priority across all sectors. We know that action is urgently needed to tackle the numerous environmental crises we now face in all levels of society, but short-sighted policies are often a roadblock when advocating for change. However, unlike governments which so often focus on short-term plans based on popularity and the length of a political term, businesses are often looking decades ahead and trying to shape a truly sustainability future.

This is why we are so inspired by the array of diverse Corporate Partners within WLT's community. Across all industries, from fashion to food, from manufacturing to publishing, every partner is committed to taking steps to not only reducing their environmental impact, but to using their business to advocate for the protection of nature. Many of our partners are leading the way with best practice standards within their industries, achieving accreditations such as B-Corp certification and going above and beyond to make a positive impact.

In a world where greenwashing is all too common in business, we are pleased to work with so many dedicated Corporate Partners and be able to show the tangible impact their support has through our core programmes, appeals, and each of our conservation partners' incomparable projects. There is no future without sustainability and there is no sustainability without biodiversity.



Trees for Global Benefits

This year has brought many new changes to Carbon Balanced. Among them, we have welcomed a new project to the programme with our partner The Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST). Since partnering with ECOTRUST in 2021, WLT has helped support a corridor that protects and restores Chimpanzee habitat between the Bugoma, Wambabya and Bugambe forests in western Uganda. Now, with Carbon Balanced, we are delighted to also be supporting their Trees for Global Benefits project.

Established in 2003, Trees for Global Benefits is a project driven by the communities including those of the Albertine Rift area of Uganda, a stunning landscape of rivers, crater lakes, wide valleys, and montane forests. Working with small family farms typically less than a hectare in size, Trees for Global Benefits supports farmers to plant native trees and benefit from agroforestry activities including shade-loving crop production and beekeeping. Essential maintenance of the trees provides ample timber, fruits, and firewood to lighten the pressure of deforestation in the nearby protected forests. The cover provided by the trees also connects habitats for wildlife to move throughout the area, all while absorbing carbon. The amount of carbon captured by these trees is calculated, verified by Plan Vivo under the PV Climate Standard and sold as carbon credits on the voluntary carbon market, providing another reliable source of income for the farmers involved. The success of the project so far speaks for itself; having begun with 33 farmers, ECOTRUST now partners with more than 50,000, with over two million trees planted to date.

Trees for Global Benefits bridges the gap between conservation and economic opportunity, empowering farmers while helping to combat climate change through the global carbon markets. Trees for Global Benefits's success is a testament to the power of collaboration, showing that it is possible to address global problems like climate change while improving the lives of those in rural communities.

From Bean to Green

Preserving Rainforests One Cup of Coffee at a Time

In 2005, global coffee producer and family-run company Miko created Puro Fairtrade Coffee, founded by Puro's now international marketing consultant Andy Orchard. A brand with a commitment to ensuring fair prices and sustainable trade for coffee growers, Puro's dedication to the protection of tropical forest habitat in coffee producing countries has led them to become a long-standing corporate partner of World Land Trust, funding reserves from Bolivia to Uganda. Through this partnership, Puro supported our partner HUTAN to purchase rainforest habitat for the protection of Orangutan in Malaysian Borneo in 2012. This year, CEO of Miko, Frans Van Tilborg, visited HUTAN to see the project's progress and assess the impact of Puro's support and told WLT what he found there.

WLT: What was the purpose of your visit to Borneo?

Frans: Having supported the land purchase of threatened rainforest with HUTAN through World Land Trust with Puro's campaign in 2012, I went to the project site in Borneo this year for a few reasons. The first was to make a new donation gift to the project, as the work is never done, it can always be expanded, and we want to protect more land, make more coffee. I wanted to show that all these years later, the work still continues, there is always more that can be done. The final reason was educational, there is no comparison to seeing the impacts on the ground of what conservation can do.

WLT: Tell us a little about the places you explored and what was happening there

Frans: WLT's Dr Richard Cuthbert and I were received in a classroom when we arrived at the project site and we met with Dr Isabelle Lackman, the co-founder and director of HUTAN.

She explained to us that one of the difficulties they face is convincing the local farmers of the Kinabatangan floodplain to participate in the conservation activities, so initiatives are focused on engaging the rainforest communities. We then saw one such initiative as we visited one of the tree-planting sites, where HUTAN has an all-women team [from the local Sungai community] who work incredibly hard to plant and monitor the new trees, a process taking years. It is a huge undertaking and truly amazing to see.

WLT: Puro's support in Borneo began in 2012 with the protection of rainforest for Orangutans, how does it feel knowing you played a part in protecting this and so many other species and their habitat?

Frans: It is a fantastic feeling. Everything Puro does with WLT brings an incredible sense of purpose and achievement. I always say that by working with WLT it feels like we are part

of something much bigger in protecting millions of acres of rainforest. Sitting in that classroom and learning about the history of HUTAN's project brought home that same feeling.

WLT: What brings you hope for the future of nature conservation?

Frans: There are several answers to that question. At a micro level, the work we do as an individual company with WLT constantly has provided so many wins. Each plant and animal protected gives hope for the future. There have been new species discovered in the Puro reserve in Ecuador and named after us. There is the aptly coffee-coloured Puro Frog (*Pristimantis puruscafeum*) which we are extremely proud of, along with the Puro Orchid (*Teagueia puroana*) and the Puro Tree (*Sciadophyllum purocafeanum*). What better way to be rewarded than with a group of new species named after the results of your conservation work?

At a medium level, I liken the progress to an oil tanker turning, it is very slow at first but, once it gains momentum, it moves on its own and there is no stopping it. More and more companies are interested in being sustainable in a real and meaningful way, not just on paper. I find it heartening how interested the youth today are in conservation — it is no longer just a political issue but something the masses are concerned with.

At a macro level I think there is still more to be done as conservation efforts are made at a regional level not

a global level. Countries and governments need to work together to prioritise nature. It takes time for this to happen, and we don't have time, it is five past twelve on the clock. But what gives me hope here is that nature is self-correcting. When it is allowed to thrive, it regenerates itself and, in that way, we can turn back the clock.

WLT: What do you believe is the most effective action we can take to mitigate global climate change and biodiversity loss?

Frans: Buy rainforest! I said this 20 years ago and say the exact same thing now. Everyone's

Puro Partnership with Andy Orchard

WLT also spoke with Puro founder Andy Orchard about how it all began and what the partnership means to him.

"The story of Puro has been growing over the last 20 years. At first it fell on deaf ears because in a world of greenwashing it can be hard to find true conservation among a sea of box-ticking exercises and regulations, especially with large or international companies. I also think anyone talking sustainability without considering biodiversity simply doesn't get it — there is no sustainable future with biodiversity.

I am very grateful that WLT saw something in Puro back when we had no promises of success to offer, we made a plan together and it has grown into something incredible. What I love about WLT is that it is not just a middleman that directs funds and calls it a day.

In 2017, when Puro funded a 5-acre coffee plantation in Honduras with Asociación Ecológica de San Marcos de Ocotepeque (AESMO) and the local coffee cooperative, I saw how they found suitable land, planted native trees, brought in native bees for pollination. I met with rangers and saw how passionate and skilled they are and how essential their role is to the success of the entire project. Conservation is an art form, it's hard work but it's beautiful work.

I'm amazed at the creative ways the partners find to solve issues. For example, in Colombia, Cotton-top Tamarins were at risk from being captured as pets so Fundación Proyecto Tití made a travelling puppet show to show people how tamarins would feel being removed from their home in the forest and kept in captivity to discourage capturing them and promote the importance of wildlife conservation.

biggest concern is with carbon emissions and their effect on the climate — rainforests absorb carbon, they are the lungs of the planet so let's protect the lungs and make them bigger! I am very grateful to Richard and Isabella for their work and for sharing the progress in Kinabatangan with me.



© Chris Perrett

Like WLT, Puro takes a macro approach. The root of everything is that humans thought they were separate from nature and that's where the problems start, but we are part of nature, and we must behave as such in everything we do. I think our partnership with WLT is a beautiful fit — coffee is a product grown in the tropics and so we protect the tropics by growing coffee, we have now also moved all our supply chains to the places where the reserves are. Puro has always been a WLT partner not just a donor, and it's been a pleasure."

WLT Patron **Steve Backshall** has had another busy year — we hope our readers enjoyed WLT’s spring newsletter’s recommendation of his award-winning BBC series *Whale* in which he led viewers on an adventure through oceans following the lives of the magnificent giant mammals. Continuing his advocacy for marine conservation, he expanded his Ocean Tour across the UK and will be headlining a discussion on shark conservation at the Shark Trust’s *For the Love of Sharks* event this November.



Steve Backshall’s Operation Ocelot is on Tour

On top of all this, Steve is also back to spearhead the launch of Operation Ocelot: Mission Three. Following the huge success of Operation Ocelot’s Mission One and Two that helped save the extraordinary Laguna Grande rainforest in Carribbean Guatemala and Brazil’s Atlantic

Rainforest – Operation Ocelot has now been called upon to save threatened species in Kenya. The intrepid presenter is now leading Operation Ocelot to the coastal forests of east Africa to help the wildlife of Kenya’s

Dakatcha Woodland, which you can read about on page 8. **Visit the WLT website to learn how you can get your young ones involved in fundraising for Steve and Mission Three.**

Restore Nature Now

WLT CEO Dr Catherine Barnard and a group of WLT staff made their way to London in June, to join Steve Backshall, fellow WLT patron Chris Packham, and a gathering of prominent environmental voices at the Restore Nature March.

Signs, banners, and placards in hand, over 60,000 people came together to march peacefully to parliament square, just weeks before the general election, to demand that the UK government uphold its responsibility to take real and swift action for nature. The overwhelming sense of community and solidarity at the march painted a heartening picture of the people’s resolve for championing nature. Actions demanded at the march included support for climate-friendly



budget, fines for environmental polluters, expansion of protected areas, access to nature, and fair and effective climate action. These changes are fundamental to the UK government’s future for nature, and we will be watching closely to see if they are realised.



Your Will Power

with WLT’s Major Giving Manager **Anne Clifford**

You’re standing on a mountainside in Armenia, on a spring morning. The turf is studded with flowers familiar from English gardens: scabious, sainfoin, cranesbills. A few steps below you, a reserve ranger scans the peaks opposite through binoculars, watching vultures floating on the thermals. In the valley beyond, a foam of apple-blossom swells across the land, dappled with the deep green of juniper.

Or maybe you’re standing in a grove of tall saplings, somewhere on a hillside in Tanzania. You can see broken stems and crushed leaves and hear snapping and rustling as huge creatures approach through the undergrowth. They burst from the thicket. Elephants, moving through a newly protected corridor from one safe place to another.

We can only take you to these places in words today. But we promise you, you can make things like this happen. You can will these moments into existence with a legacy gift to WLT. Both places described above have been protected thanks to supporters who included WLT in their Wills.

Our supporters’ determination blooms in the flowers of Armenia, marches with the elephants on migration, and overflows into all the mornings of a wild future. And that’s why when we sat down at WLT recently to talk about why legacy giving was so important, we kept coming back to one phrase. ‘Your Will Power’.

WLT itself was born of a sudden hope, a determination that a great forest should survive, and the collective willpower of many people in countries around the world. And all our supporters today are part of that continued hope and determination – and of that willpower to protect the wild world.

As well as talking clearly about how legacy giving helps us in our work, we’re making it easier than ever before for our supporters to write their Will free of charge. You may know that we’ve been partnering with Farewill, who offer a free online will-writing service, but earlier this autumn we also confirmed a new partnership with National Free Wills Network (NFWN). NFWN can now offer WLT supporters a choice of solicitors near them, for a more traditional in-person will-writing service.

If you’d like to know more about either of these options, or about supporting WLT with a gift in your Will, please do let us know. And if you’ve already included a gift, thank you so much. If you’re happy to share that with us, we would love to talk about any priorities you have for your support, whether that’s an animal you are passionate about, or a place where you have a personal connection.



We promise your Will Power can change the world.

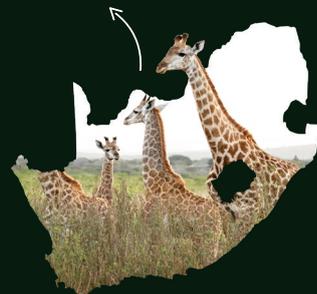
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