

## World Land Trust, a history of saving Real Acres in Real Places

WLT was established in 1989 to save critically threatened tropical forest in Belize and has, since then, been instrumental in the purchase and protection of 500,000 acres of wilderness habitats. It is a registered charity: 1001291 and its patrons are Sir David Attenborough and David Gower. WLT works through overseas project partners with whom they have a very close working relationship; the land is managed as strictly protected nature reserve. The land purchased and protected are **real acres in real places**, and WLT works to save a range of crucial habitats from tropical forest, to grasslands and wetlands, which are home to a wealth of endangered and endemic species.

Donating to WLT's **Action Fund** enables WLT to direct your support to any one of our most urgent projects. Other options for donations include our **Buy an Acre** projects, our current **Special Appeal**, **Plant a Tree** and **Keepers of the Wild**.

In 2013 we continue with our **Buy an Acre** projects saving critical habitats in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Bolivia (the latter is a new project), and our **Special Appeals** are saving critical corridor habitats for Orang-utans and Pygmy elephants in Borneo, Caucasian Leopard and Bezoir in Armenia.

As well as focusing on saving threatened tropical forests WLT is also working with project partner REGUA in Brazil and also with our partners in Ecuador to restore forest through our **Plant a Tree** programme. We also continue to raise funds for our **Keepers of the Wild** initiative. With over half a million acres now owned by overseas project partners WLT needs to help protect the reserves that have been created by providing funds to employ and equip more park rangers.

<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/current-projects.htm>

### How does WLT decide on which land to save?

When selecting new projects, a number of specific criteria are evaluated to ensure that it falls within the WLT's mission, and practical considerations are also taken into account. The most important aspect of any WLT project is its Conservation Value: what is the biodiversity within the proposed project area? What is the level of threat to individual species? The size of the reserve, and whether it connects with other wildlife reserves to create a greater network of protected areas, is a priority also. Would training for local people, and sustainability programmes, contribute to the long-term protection of the reserve? Other criteria, such as the location, the likelihood of success and the absence of adequate funding from other sources, are also very important, and WLT always considers suggestions from supporters and the potential for fundraising.

For more information on how the World Land Trust works please see our page on frequently asked questions <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/about/faqs.htm>

## Where WLT can purchase land for £100 an Acre: Buy an Acre Projects

### Saving Rainforest and other critically threatened habitats

#### **BOLIVIA:** local partner: Armonia

WLT's Buy an Acre funds are protecting the Beni savanna in the south west corner of the Amazon basin in Bolivia. This is the only breeding ground of the critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw, and it also provides habitat for many other threatened species including Jaguar, Puma, Maned Wolf and Giant Anteater. At present land is relatively cheap but it is anticipated that land speculation will drive up prices in the near future. [Beni Savanna, Bolivia | World Land Trust](#)

#### **ECUADOR:** local partner: Nature and Culture International, Ecuador (NCI)

Ecuador contains 17 per cent of the world's total number of bird species: 1,600, but there is little protected land in the south and west of the country, where many of the rarest bird species are only managing to hang on in diminishing patches of unprotected habitat. In 2012 WLT has Buy an Acre projects with NCI in Southern Ecuador to save the threatened cloud forests of the Andes, the tropical forests of the Upper Amazon and the Tumbesian Tropical Dry forests, to protect the habitats, their wildlife and community water supply. So far WLT has helped support the purchase of 14,412 acres (5,833 ha) of threatened forests throughout Ecuador, working with four project partners, including NCI. <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/ecuador-reserves/index.htm>

#### **COLOMBIA:** local partner: Fundación ProAves

Straddling the Equator and rising from the shores of the Pacific Ocean to the high Andean peaks, the Chocó region of north western South America shelters one of the wettest tropical areas on earth: More than 26 ft (8m) of rainfall a year sustains one of the single greatest concentrations of unique biodiversity on the planet. But in recent decades, road-building has resulted in urban expansion which is threatening the region. Threatened species of the region include spectacled bear and jaguar and endemic birds, threatened by loss of habitat include the Baudo Guan (*Penelope ortonii*), Chocó Vireo (*Vireo masteri*), Banded Ground-cuckoo (*Neomorphus radiolosus*) and Long-wattled Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus penduliger*). WLT is working with Fundación ProAves to buy strategic properties to save vital habitats and their wildlife in a country that is growing in sophistication and is keen to protect its wonderful habitats while there is still an opportunity.

(<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/colombia.htm>)

#### **MEXICO:** local partner: Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG)

GESG are co-managers (jointly with the Government) of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve in central Mexico. This area is one of the most ecologically diverse and important regions in Mexico as it is the meeting point of two bio-regions - the Nearctic from the north and the Neotropical from the south. The altitudinal range (300 - 3,100m) protects a wide range of species including all six species of cat found in Mexico: Jaguar, Puma, Bobcat, Margay and Ocelot. WLT is aiming to raise funds to save more of these threatened habitats during 2013.

(<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/mexico.htm>)

**A donation of just £25 to the above projects ensures the purchase of Quarter of an Acre and its protection in perpetuity.**

## **WLT's latest Special Appeal**

### **ARMENIA: Saving the Caucasian Leopard: local partner Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets**

There is now confirmed evidence that the endangered Caucasian Leopard is present in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, created with funds raised by WLT. Our local partner, Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) are working in the Khosrov area to protect various species including the Leopard now one of the rarest species in the region. There has been little research into the true status of the Caucasian Leopard and it is thought that perhaps less than 15 animals survive in Armenia, their habitat being devastated by uncontrolled hunting and the destruction of their natural habitat, a serious threat to wildlife across the country. But footprints, fur and scats found in the new refuge have been identified as being those of the Caucasian Leopard and we need to create a corridor between protected areas, for the Leopards to roam and breed safely. More monitoring will take place and funds will also be used to help tackle illegal hunting and raise environmental awareness.

<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/special-appeal>

### **BORNEO: Orang-utan Appeal: local partners: LEAP Spiral and HUTAN**

In response to the desperate plight of the Orang-utan in SE Asia, WLT launched an urgent appeal for funds in the autumn of 2008. This successfully raised funds to purchase a 222 acre parcel of strategically placed forest adjacent to the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. This region is the focus of WLT's project as 10 per cent of Sabah's Orang-utans survive here and the forests are being relentlessly cleared and turned into oil palm plantations. By purchasing pockets of land between existing sanctuaries there is a real opportunity to save sustainable areas for Orang-utans to live safely and breed. The forest corridors will also help protect other endangered species including Bornean Pygmy Elephant, Malayan Sun Bear, Clouded Leopard, Proboscis Monkey and 9 other species of primates as well as birds including Storm's Stork and eight hornbill species. WLT continues to raise funds urgently to protect more forest.

<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/malaysia.htm>

## **Where land is in urgent need of protection but costs more than £100 an Acre WLT is involved in conservation initiatives with the following partners:**

Buying strategically important parcels of land to create corridors and also save particularly important habitats for their endangered wildlife

### **INDIA: local partner: Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)**

With only 20,000 Indian Elephants left in the wild urgent action is needed to protect corridors between reserve areas to enable elephants to move safely, using their traditional migratory routes. WLT is currently working with WTI to protect the Chilkiya – Kota corridor in Uttarakhand, Northern India. The corridor will permanently connect the famous Corbett Tiger Reserve with the Ramnagar Forest Reserve and is just one of 88 corridors urgently in need of protection throughout India. These corridors will save not just elephants, but Tigers, Leopard and other cat species, Indian Marsh Crocodile as well as a wealth of other wildlife

<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/india.htm>

### **KENYA: local partner: Nature Kenya**

The Kinangop Highland Grasslands in central Kenya are critically threatened by the spread of agriculture, farming and urban development. The original tussock grassland is vital for the survival of many species, particularly ground-nesting birds such as Sharpe's Longclaw, which is now threatened with extinction. Compared to rainforest, grasslands receive little conservation attention and unless immediate action is taken the cost of reversing the damage might be too great and species will be lost. <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/kenya.htm>

### **PARAGUAY: Guyra Paraguay**

WLT has raised funds to purchase and protect Atlantic Rainforest at San Rafael, Pantanal wetlands and Dry Chaco. During 2012 WLT will be supporting Guyra Paraguay through funds raised by Keepers of the Wild. (<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/paraguay.htm>)

New land purchase may commence later in the year at these project areas

## **Other project activities**

### **Keepers of the Wild ranger programme**

Since 1989, WLT and its overseas project partners have been instrumental in the purchase and protection of over 500,000 acres, now protected as permanent wildlife reserves. The Trust's partners now have the task of protecting the land and all its wildlife; and not just these 500,000 acres. The WLT model has been so successful that governments of several countries have recognised the international support for their conservation challenges and have taken unprecedented steps to save some of the last wilderness areas in their countries, giving responsibility to WLT's Non-governmental Organisation partners to assist in the protection of the land. But protecting all this land puts a strain on WLT's partner organisations and to address this urgent need WLT launched Keepers of the Wild to raise funds to get more rangers into the reserves to ensure their protection and to ensure the safety of the wildlife. <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/keepers-of-the-wild.htm>

### **Plant a Tree Appeal**

Once WLT has helped its project partners create a protected nature reserve, it is sometimes necessary to improve or expand this forest habitat through tree planting. By donating to the Plant a Tree appeal you will help connect fragmented forest to create a contiguous habitat for wildlife. The Plant a Tree appeal aims to raise funds to plant more trees at the Guapi Assu Reserve, with our partner REGUA, restoring and expanding the highly threatened Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil. Other tree planting is taking place in Ecuador and Kenya.

<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/plant-tree>



## Carbon Balanced with World Land Trust

WLT also runs a carbon offsetting programme enabling individuals and organisations to address their unavoidable carbon dioxide emissions whilst at the same time contributing to biodiversity conservation. The alteration of our planet's ecology is one of the greatest threats posed by climate change. WLT urges everyone to take direct action immediately, both to reduce energy use and to offset any unavoidable emissions, in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. WLT recommends that individuals and companies take these three steps:

- **Calculate your emissions:** You can estimate your individual emissions using our online calculators and your organisation's emissions by submitting a free online carbon emissions audit form or contacting WLT's Ecosystem Services team directly. Full details can be found on our website: <http://ecoservices.worldlandtrust.org>
- **Reduce your emissions as much as possible:** Our website provides links to online sources of help and advice.
- **Offset the remainder:** Offset your emissions which cannot be avoided through the Carbon Balanced programme.

### Our Carbon Balanced Projects

All Carbon Balanced projects are managed in collaboration with our in-country project partners. Project design is robust and takes a balanced approach, achieving real, measurable greenhouse gas emissions reductions whilst also delivering a range of wider benefits in terms of biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration and watershed protection. Emissions offsets are generated through the restoration of degraded habitat and protection of standing forest critically threatened with imminent deforestation. In this way the projects help expand and connect fragmented habitat, creating larger refuges for threatened animals, plants and other life forms. Primarily located in Ecuador, a megadiverse country with extremely high national rates of deforestation, Carbon Balanced projects are sited in areas of significant importance for biodiversity conservation, with the project areas, once secured, being incorporated into nearby reserves owned by WLT partners.