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**Saving habitats
Saving species
since 1989**

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Save the Blue-throated Hillstar

Urgent action needed for newly discovered hummingbird species

COUNTRY: ECUADOR
LAND: 70,000 ACRES
TARGET: £30,000

The newly discovered Blue-throated Hillstar is already critically endangered. This stunning hummingbird can only be found in a small series of mountaintops in the western Andes of southern Ecuador, but part of this land has already been sold to mining companies.

Our partner Naturaleza y Cultura Ecuador (NCE) and the Water National Secretariat (SENAGUA) have been working with local communities to create a large Water Protection Area (one of the highest levels of legal land protection in Ecuador). With your help, we can give them the resources to extend this by 70,000 acres (28,300 hectares) to include the hillstar's habitat and protect it from mining.

The land here is owned by the local community, who want to ensure it is protected because they rely on the clean freshwater collected in the mountain ecosystem. If this appeal is successful, NCE will extend the proposed Water Protection Area so the total area protected will be almost 200,000 acres (79,000 hectares) and also provide water for at least 470,000 Ecuadorian people.

As well as the Blue-throated Hillstar, a new species of frog, the Tik Tik Rain Frog, was also discovered in August, found very close to the eastern border of the proposed protected area. This unique páramo habitat is also home to Spectacled Bear, Mountain Tapir and the magnificent Andean Condor. These mountains are still relatively unexplored by naturalists, and by protecting them, we may discover many more species new to science.

By donating to help save the Blue-throated Hillstar's habitat today, you will be securing a future for this species and perhaps some that have not yet been discovered.



Take urgent action to secure this hummingbird's future by donating by post (donation form enclosed), by phone (01986 874422) or online (worldlandtrust.org).



Blue-throated Hillstar

Oreotrochilus cyanoaemus

Habitat

Páramo (alpine shrubland)

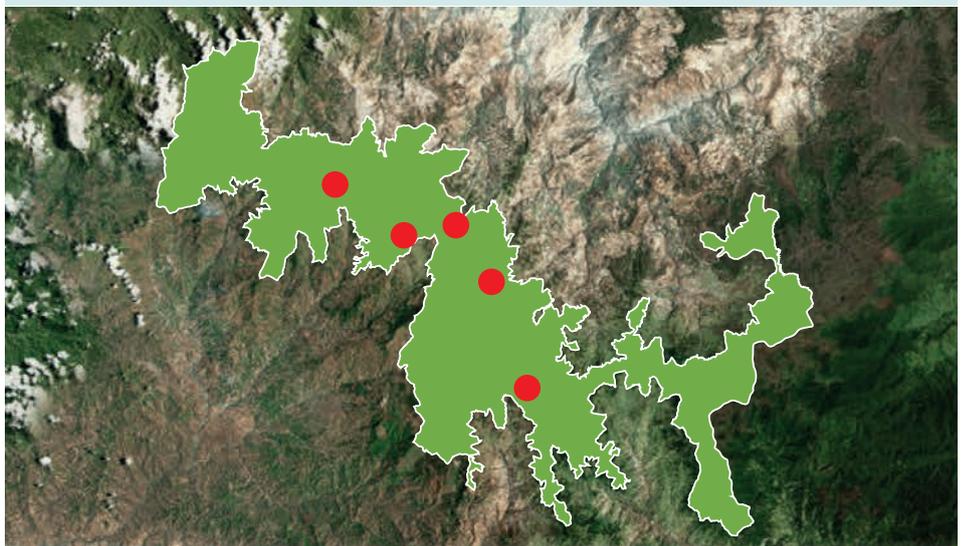
Geographic range

Limited to small areas in the Western Andes of southern Ecuador



Threats

Habitat loss (due to mining, cattle ranching and agriculture), manmade fires and encroachment of non-native species (from nearby pine plantations)



Funds will be used to extend the Water Protection Area to ensure the hillstar's habitat is protected at government level.



Known localities of Blue-throated Hillstar (further research needed)



Proposed Water Protection Area (with extension)



8,154 acres of jungle saved for Jaguars

Our Belize appeal reaches its target, thank you to all supporters

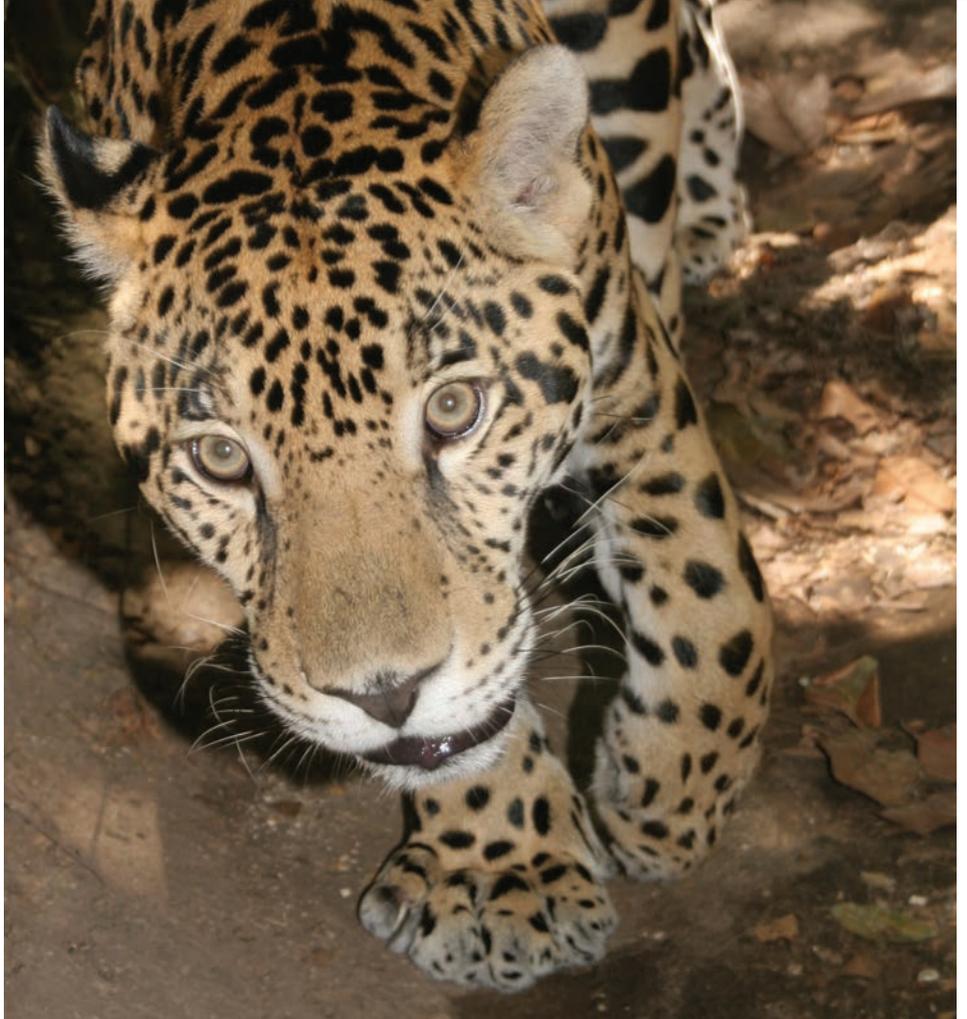
A vital piece of forest connecting three protected areas in northern Belize can now be purchased by WLT's partner, the Corozal Sustainable Future Initiative (CSFI), thanks to supporters of WLT's Jungle for Jaguars appeal and our fundraising partner, the International Tropical Conservation Fund (ITCF).

The appeal raised £600,000 for the purchase and protection of 8,154 acres (3,300 hectares) of Yucatán moist forests home to Jaguar, Ocelot, Margay, Puma and Jaguarundi.

This land connects three reserves already managed by CSFI, who have been working to connect these areas for Jaguars and other wildlife for more than 10 years. **Once the corridor is complete it will have created a continuous protected area of 88,500 acres (35,815 hectares).**

Heron Moreno, Executive Director of CSFI, says "Creating this corridor is important, not only for connectivity, but also because it will serve as a model that we can use in other parts of the country.

"By putting wildlife conservation firmly in the spotlight, we will have an opportunity for it to become a national priority. If we succeed, it will act as a trigger to get things going at a national level."



The Jungle for Jaguars appeal secured a vital piece of forest in a wildlife corridor used regularly by at least 22 Jaguars.

Quadrupled donations for sponsored birdwatch

Dedicated WLT supporter Andy Langley received quadrupled donations to a sponsored dawn-til-dusk birdwatch, and raised an incredible £20,600 for the Jungle for Jaguars appeal.

This was made possible by the combined matching schemes of Andy's employer, Ecclesiastical Insurance, and WLT's Big Match Fortnight, when all donations to Jungle for Jaguars between 3-17 October were matched.

Andy has been a supporter for the past five years, and became a WLT Friend. His imagination was sparked by the urgent Belize appeal and saw the

possibilities offered by Big Match Fortnight. Andy decided that a 12 hour birdwatch, trying to spot as many species as possible within his home county of Gloucestershire, would be a fitting way to raise funds for the latest appeal.

The 'Jungle for Jaguars' forest in Belize is home to many spectacular bird species, such as the Keel-billed Toucan, Ornate Hawk-Eagle and endemic Black Catbird.

Back in Gloucestershire, he managed to count 72 bird species, and reported that the highlights were Great White Egrets and two species he had never seen before, Yellow-legged Gull and Jack Snipe.



The long road to success

Saving habitat for elephants and orang-utans in Malaysian Borneo

An important rainforest corridor connecting two reserves on the banks of the Kinabatangan River in Malaysian Borneo is close to reaching full protection under the local Wildlife Department.

The corridor, called the Keruak Corridor, was the target of the Borneo Rainforest Appeal in 2013, which raised £1 million for WLT's partner Hutan to purchase available land connecting two protected areas, the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary and the Keruak Virgin Jungle Reserve. After purchase, to ensure that the habitat remains protected and cannot be cleared for Oil Palm plantations, Hutan began the lengthy process of submitting the land for gazettement into the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.

In addition to the original properties, further land connecting the two protected areas, belonging to the state and the owner of an Oil Palm plantation, has been designated for conservation. This has further strengthened the riverside habitat



Pygmy Elephants are a subspecies of the Asian Elephant, known to be more gentle than their counterparts on the Asian mainland. The elephants of Kinabatangan are renowned for their peaceful nature.

for critically threatened Bornean wildlife such as the Pygmy Elephant, Bornean Orang-utan and Proboscis Monkey.



Deforestation at the border: the fight against palm oil

WLT staff member Nina Seale describes her visit to the WLT-funded reserve areas in the Kinabatangan rainforest, Malaysian Borneo.

Less than 100 years ago, Borneo was an island of thick, impenetrable forest which embodied everything we are taught to think of when we hear the word 'rainforest'. Trees so tall you can't see the canopy from where you stand. The rustling of monkey troops easily swinging their way through the branches

above your head. Stepping into the giant muddy footprints of elusive forest elephants.

I knew this wasn't the case anymore. Working for WLT, I'd heard all about the state of the rainforest, reduced to strips hugging the Kinabatangan River, surrounded by miles of Oil Palm. What I wasn't prepared for was just how rich these remaining pockets of habitat still are. The resilience of Bornean wildlife is astonishing and heartbreaking, from

the health of the secondary forests which have grown back after heavy deforestation, to the Pygmy Elephants, whose herds have adapted to live in this matrix of plantation and forest.

The fight for their survival is still ongoing. I visited the land on the edge of the Pangi Virgin Jungle Reserve, which was saved thanks to supporters of the Saving Kinabatangan appeal in 2017.

It was thick rainforest, humming with life, but to reach it we had to walk through what I can only describe as an open wound. Land which had been living, breathing forest only two weeks before had been flattened in preparation for Oil Palm planting. The land had been subject to a bidding war between the conservationists and an Oil Palm land broker. It was devastating. We don't always win. But it showed the importance of Hutan's work and I stood in the Pangi forest knowing exactly what its fate would have been if it had not been for the Saving Kinabatangan appeal.



Restoring a degraded habitat

Carbon Balanced programme funds restoration in Vietnam



Simon Barnes, author and WLT Council Member, describes the forests of Khe Nuoc Trong in Vietnam.

Dawn. Smokin' jungle either side of the Ho Chi Minh Highway: deep thick forest like giant broccoli, standing proud and high on slopes of dizzying steepness. A sweet coolness in the air that won't last. And then the singing began: a joyous lamentation that filled the air above the trees, ringing out from one valley to the next.

Southern White-cheeked Gibbons. Classified as Endangered. They sound like the Clangers with more feeling: long, heartbreaking, ululating phrases that form the national anthem of the family that does the singing. It's about family, territory, life and the future. This is our home. Let's keep it that way. It was a sentiment I encountered again and again in Vietnam.

You stare at the forest and look for movement – often, just the movement of the branches. Then you hone in and you can find, sometimes surprisingly close, a monkey in dramatic shades of black, white and grey: an extravagant silver beard and a long white-tail that hangs below the branches like a bellpull in a costume drama. And, almost unbelievably, long, bright-red legs. Red-shanked Doucs look as if they have borrowed Michael Portillo's trousers. *This is an excerpt from a piece originally published in The Sunday Times Magazine.*



The lush wet forests of Khe Nuoc Trong, home to nine primate species including Southern White-cheeked Gibbon (left) and Red-shanked Douc (right). WLT's Carbon Balanced programme supports our partner Viet Nature's work in Khe Nuoc Trong. For more information, visit worldlandtrust.org/carbon-balanced



New frog species discovered

A new species of fanged frog has been discovered by researchers conducting wildlife surveys in central Vietnam.

The copper-coloured Kizirian's Frog (right) was found in rocky streams of several research sites, including Khe Nuoc Trong. It belongs to the *Limnonectes* genus known as fanged frogs.

The species was discovered in small streams which rely on the health of the

surrounding forest to maintain water quality for aquatic species such as fish, frogs and insects to thrive. The forests of Khe Nuoc Trong are of remarkable quality compared to the surrounding areas, where most lowland forests have been fragmented or cleared by agriculture, and degraded by illegal activities such as logging, poaching and the impacts of the Vietnam War.



After land purchase:

Long term protection and restoration



To ensure our partners' nature reserves remain safe from threats such as logging and poaching, WLT supports the salaries of wildlife rangers through Keepers of the Wild.

The rangers are the reserve guardians protecting wildlife from ongoing threats. They also have an important role to play in monitoring the wildlife (pictured right). In some habitats it is possible for the rangers to observe and record species on patrol: by using binoculars to scan an open mountain landscape, viewing wildlife from a boat through riverine habitats, and recording animal tracks and scat on paths. However, not all species are easily observed, and most of our Keepers of the Wild also place motion-triggered cameras on trails to capture images of elusive and nocturnal wildlife.



Keepers of the Wild monitoring wildlife, clockwise from top left: Virab Mkhitaryan in Armenia; Gabriela Valenzuela Mareco and Edenilson Cabañas in Paraguay; and Berjaya Elahan in Malaysian Borneo.

Help us plant 11,666 trees to restore Atlantic Forest in Brazil

The Atlantic Forest is one of the world's most biologically diverse habitats, second only to the Amazon. It historically stretched down the Atlantic coast of the South American continent, but it is estimated that only about 7 per cent of the original forest remains today.

WLT works with Brazilian partner Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA) to purchase and protect Atlantic Forest in

the valley surrounding the Guapiaçu River. Where deforestation for agriculture and livestock grazing has created 'forest islands', REGUA tries to reconnect the habitat for the health of the forest and its wildlife. WLT's Plant a Tree programme is currently supporting a reforestation project to restore the habitat between two areas of forest previously protected by WLT supporters. REGUA plans to reforest

17 acres (7 hectares) of land, which was previously pasture, with 11,666 trees.

All the trees planted will be native species, as REGUA collect seeds from in and around their reserve and cultivate the seedlings in their nursery before planting.

The reforestation programme provides employment for local communities and restoring the forest in the watershed of the Guapiaçu River improves the quality of drinking water for local communities, as well as the towns and cities downstream. When groups of schoolchildren from local villages and the nearby city of Rio de Janeiro visit REGUA, they are invited to help plant trees as part of their trip to learn about the importance of restoring the forest.



The grasslands ready for reforestation to reconnect Atlantic Forest in Brazil.

Help us restore the Atlantic Forest. For £5 you can fund the planting, maintenance and protection of one tree in Brazil.

Action Fund provides vital support

Saving land for endangered species across the world

WLT's Action Fund is used to support our conservation partners with a range of projects throughout the year. It is thanks to the Action Fund that we are able to respond rapidly to time-sensitive opportunities presented by our partners, and the monthly donations of WLT Friends enable us to commit to long-term projects.

In Zambia, the Action Fund assisted with funds to enable increased protection and anti-poaching operations in Kasanka National Park. The Action Fund also provided long-term support for the land leases of the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR) in Armenia. The mountain landscape of the CWR contains incredible floral diversity and is home to spectacular Caucasian wildlife including the Caucasian Leopard, Brown Bear, Grey Wolf and Bearded Vulture.

In Ecuador, it has funded the purchase of 88 acres (36 hectares) to extend Tapichalaca Reserve in the south, and 185 acres (75 hectares) of a cloud forest corridor in the heart of the Andes.

An exciting opportunity arose in the Beni savanna of Bolivia, where our partner Asociación Armonía has been working to protect the habitat of the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw. We were able to help them purchase an area



of land where they had been running a nestbox breeding programme since 2006. Thanks to a collaboration between WLT, Asociación Armonía, American Bird Conservancy, International Conservation Fund of Canada, and IUCN Netherlands more than 1,680 acres (680 hectares) was purchased and the Laney Rickman Reserve has now been created.

The Action Fund also supported a new project in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Western Ghats mountain range in India, home to remarkable wildlife such as Indian Pangolin, Rusty Spotted Cat and Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog).



Land and wildlife conservation projects supported by the Action Fund.

Top: The annual migration of millions of Straw-coloured Fruit Bats to Kasanka National Park in Zambia, one of Earth's greatest mammal migrations.

Below: The beautiful meadows of the Caucasus in Armenia. Right: Blue-throated Macaws breeding in the nestboxes of the Laney Rickman Reserve. Above right: The endangered Indian Pangolin, one of the rare species that can be found in the Western Ghats, India.



The Action Fund is sustained by the monthly donations of WLT Friends. Sign up to become a Friend on our website: worldlandtrust.org/friends

World-touring cyclists fundraise for conservation and visit WLT's UK reserve

21,000 kilometres, 27 countries, 12 months, three pairs of lycra shorts, two bicycles, and one camera.

Meet Camilla and Julian Read, a pair of environmentalists who decided to turn their move from the UK to New Zealand into an epic cycling trip around the world, raising funds for wildlife conservation with WLT.

They began their journey in March 2018 and as you read this, the couple are on the road cycling through Asia. However, before they left, they visited Kites Hill, WLT's only UK reserve which protects ancient beech woodland and meadow habitat in Gloucestershire.

"It is very appropriately named," said Julian after their long cycle to the reserve. "We're exhausted from getting up the hill! But we were very happy to finally make it here, it has the most incredible vista from the top of the Cotswolds."

"We have already cycled through and wild camped in some awe-inspiring



Camilla and Julian Read look out from Kites Hill Reserve at the English countryside. They are aiming to raise £1 per mile on their 21,000 mile cycle for WLT.

landscapes," added Camilla, "but we never want to forget how important wildlife conservation is at home too."

"Though it is strange that our next stop for a WLT project will hopefully be the subtropical forests of the Garo Hills in

India, home to elephants and gibbons!"

To find out more about the Reads' journey, visit their website readcycleread.bike and subscribe to our monthly eBulletin to read an account of their visit to WLT's project in Garo Hills.

Help us celebrate WLT's 30th anniversary

As WLT was founded in 1989, this year we are celebrating 30 years of land conservation for wildlife. Thanks to our incredible supporters, in three decades WLT has saved 762,600 acres of wildlife habitats so far.

However, we are constantly looking to the future and new opportunities. So, we invite you to join us in celebrating our conservation successes by becoming a fundraiser in this anniversary year so we can continue to save land to save species.

If you have already set yourself a challenge for 2019, perhaps you could ask for sponsorship, but if you need some inspiration, here are some of our ideas:

Sign up for an Action Challenge: WLT supporter Lisa Henderson completed challenges for WLT two years in a row, walking the Cotswold Way Action Challenge with friends (right) in 2017, and the Jurassic Coast Challenge in 2018.

Use Facebook's birthday fundraisers: If you're on Facebook, use the new fundraising feature to encourage people to help you reach a fundraising target for WLT on your birthday.

Encourage your school to join in:



If you're at school or have children who are, suggest fundraising events or activities such as non-uniform days, bake sales and sponsored silences.

Also be on the lookout for our upcoming events this year, which we will be announcing soon in our monthly eBulletin.



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