

ISSUE No. 62 SUMMER 2019

**Saving habitats
Saving species
since 1989**

worldlandtrust.org



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- Saving Kenya's Coastal Forests: Success for Dakatcha Woodland
- Buy an Acre - new opportunities
- 20,000 trees to be planted to restore oil palm land in Borneo
- New law to protect the Chaco's critically threatened Guanaco

SAVING KENYA'S COASTAL FORESTS

DAKATCHA

where small things matter



BREAKING NEWS:

Together we have saved 810 acres of Dakatcha Woodland protecting a precious piece of Kenya's threatened coastal forest!

Thank you from all inhabitants of Dakatcha Woodland who are now assured a safe place to call home.

Launched a matter of weeks ago, the Buy an Acre Dakatcha Woodland Appeal captured everyone's imagination. Whether the instant success of the appeal was triggered by the enchanting Sokoke Scops Owls (featured on the cover), the entertaining Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew or saving the only known nesting site of Clarke's Weaver, we simply don't know. Maybe supporters enjoyed turning their attention to something they could achieve in Africa? Whichever reason was your motivation, this appeal confirms that conservation in Africa and the protection of some of the planet's small, less glamorous species, goes to the heart of our donors.

Particular thanks go to African Bird Club for their generous support throughout the appeal.

Clarke's Weaver

WLT was alerted to the plight of one of the world's rarest birds - Clarke's Weaver - whose survival is hanging in the balance. Its only known nesting site was discovered as recently as 2013, deep in the miombo woodland of Dakatcha, near Malindi on Kenya's north coast. Less than 2,000 pairs are thought to exist, but illegal charcoal production, uncontrolled pineapple farming, and outside investor and land speculation are putting immense pressure on this vulnerable habitat.

This is a woodland to save. And every healthy, intact forest we can protect helps the fight against climate change.



- 810 acres for purchase in Dakatcha
- Important bird areas
- National protected areas



Precious but not Protected

Dakatcha Woodland is an internationally recognised Important Bird Area (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) with many endangered species but it currently has no official protection. The funds raised will enable WLT's partner, Nature Kenya, to begin the land purchase which will result in this rare, vulnerable habitat being given strict protection as a nature reserve.



Thank you from Dakatcha's woodland

Flocks of Clarke's Weaver will be safe nesting, undisturbed, in the seasonal wetlands deep in Dakatcha's beautiful *Brachystegia* woodland. Golden-rumped Elephant Shrews will snuffle to their hearts content through the leaf litter and in the future it might become a safe haven for their giant namesakes, the African Elephant, who occasionally wander into Dakatcha from nearby Tsavo National Park and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Safeguarding Dakatcha not only protects its fragile and unique biodiversity but it also assures local communities plentiful supplies of water provided by the forest which acts to trap, store and release rainfall. Many of the forest plants provide medicines and through sustainable harvesting their collection can continue.

Welcoming European migrants

As well as the wildlife that has a home in Dakatcha, the woodland is also a haven for continent-hopping seasonal birds like Golden Orioles, Eurasian Rollers and Nightingales. BirdLife International has estimated that over 40 per cent of long- distance migrants in the African-Eurasian flyway have declined over the last three decades and numbers continue to fall. Consequently, the migrants who do make it across their 4,000 mile journey need to be assured of a warm welcome. Dakatcha Woodland is not only a crucial part of Kenya's natural heritage, but a globally important habitat that has a direct impact on the birds that migrate to Europe to breed.

About our partner

Nature Kenya, formerly known as the East African Natural History Society, is Africa's oldest wildlife society. Established in 1909, its mission is to connect people with nature and take action for biodiversity conservation. Nature Kenya has been a WLT partner since 2006 and in 2011 WLT launched a successful appeal to create the Leleshwa Reserve, protecting threatened tussock grassland in the Kinangop Plateau



Just a few of the threatened species that call Dakatcha home

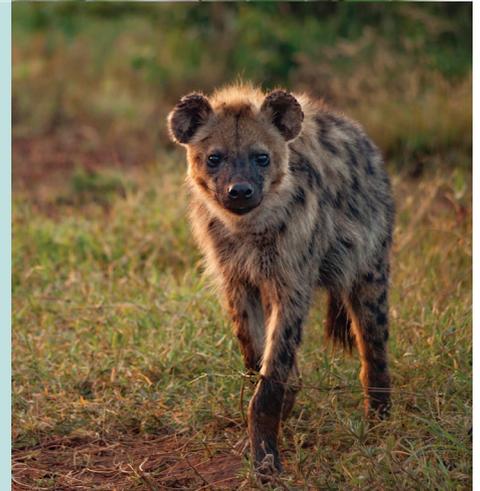
Sokoke Scops Owl

This endangered owl has a range restricted to the Arabuko Sokoke Forest and Dakatcha Woodland and the East Usambara Mountains in north east Tanzania. The Sokoke Scops Owl is nocturnal, roosting during the day in the lower canopy of trees. Little is known of its breeding habits. These owls come in two morphs, most usual is greyish or with dark brown upper parts; there is also a rufous morph which is more brightly coloured.



Spotted Hyena

The Spotted, or Laughing Hyena, was once widespread and numerous in sub-Saharan Africa, but their numbers are declining as a result of persecution. When living in an unprotected area, they are frequently hunted, trapped and poisoned because of concern that they will kill livestock, although the actual level of predation is thought to be low. Drought and deforestation may also be affecting the Spotted Hyena by reducing available habitat and altering the food chain. They are safe in Dakatcha Woodland.

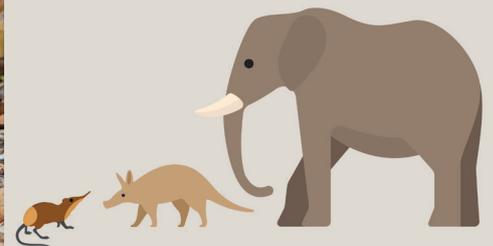


Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew

The globally-threatened Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew (also known as a Sengi) is a charismatic inhabitant of the forest



floor. With its long, flexible snout it searches for insects, spiders, centipedes and earthworms in the leaf litter. It is the largest of the elephant shrews, and not a shrew at all. In fact they are related to aardvarks, manatees and elephants.



located between the Kenyan Rift Valley, to the west and the Aberdare Range, to the east, to save habitat for Sharpe's Longclaw. This bird is Endangered, with an estimated population of less than 20,000. Its grassland habitat is threatened by cultivation and woodlots.

Because of the success of this appeal we are hoping to help Nature Kenya purchase more of the Dakatcha Woodland in the near future.

Good news from Belize

More land added to Jungle for Jaguars corridor

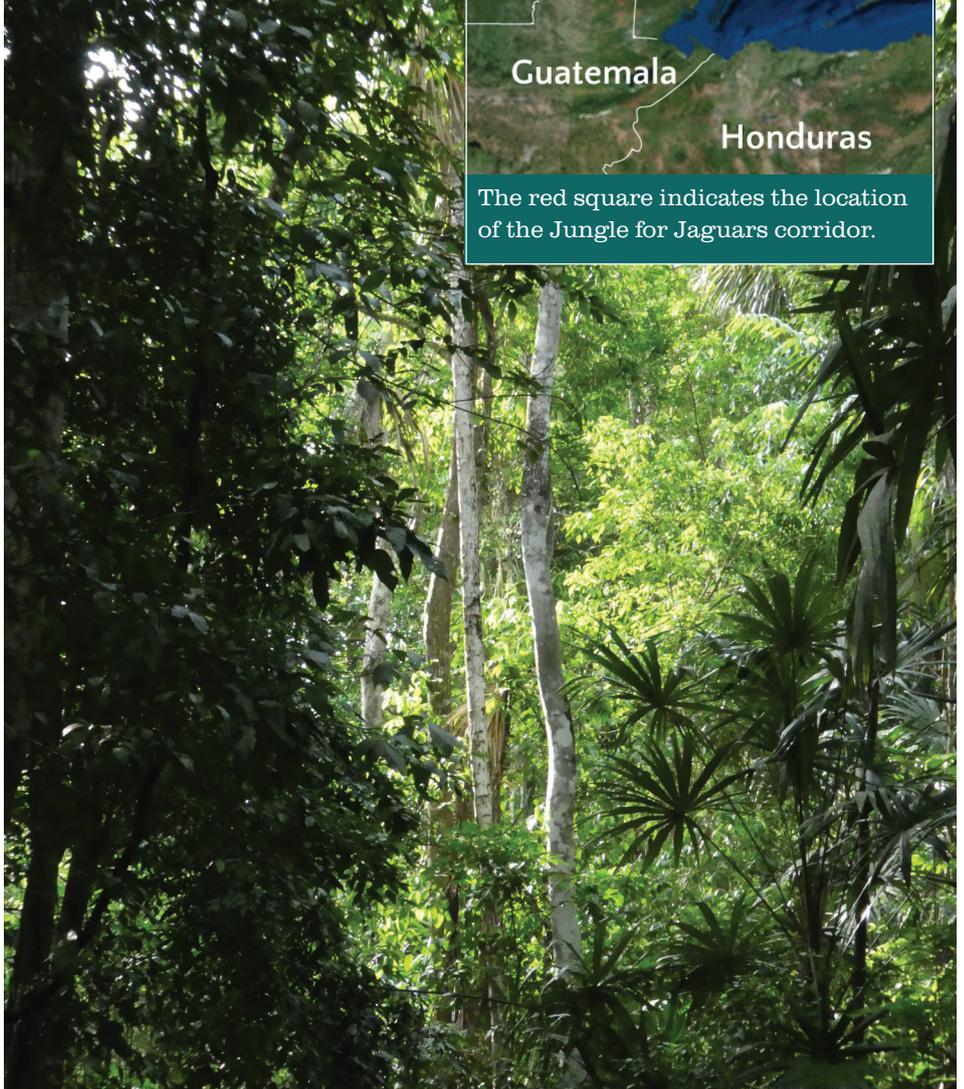
SUCCESS: £181,000 RAISED

An appeal to raise £181,000 to fund an additional 1,818 acres in Belize was reached in May.

This land has now been added to the existing corridor to ensure safe passage for Jaguars on the eastern side of Shipstern Lagoon. The corridor connects the Jungle for Jaguars land with Shipstern Reserve, adding to the 88,500 acres already secured. The new land purchase borders Belize's largest inland lagoon, Shipstern Lagoon, and shelters this rich aquatic habitat for many species of birds, invertebrates and fish.

Connecting to Shipstern Lagoon

Belize's largest inland lagoon, Shipstern's waters and mangrove islands host more than 300 bird species including the Roseate Spoonbill, photographed below. Other species include egrets, parrots, warblers, flycatchers, and toucans. The reserve is also home to manatees, tapirs, armadillos, peccaries, pumas, deer and Jaguar.



Jaguar's eye-view of its Belizean habitat. In the past decade alone, over 25,000 acres of natural forest has been cleared for agriculture and development in this region of northern Belize. The Jungle for Jaguars assures protection for wildlife.



The red square indicates the location of the Jungle for Jaguars corridor.

Update from the Forests in the Sky, Ecuador

The focus of WLT's 2015 Big Match Fortnight appeal and major fundraising in 2016 was for protection of tropical Andes of Ecuador, specifically aimed to connect Ecuador's two national parks: Sangay and Llanganates.

The appeal successfully raised £500,000 and our partner, Fundacion EcoMinga was able to purchase a mosaic of properties to join up land already protected to create the continuous wildlife corridor between the parks.

WLT has continued its support and funds new land purchase as and when possible. The most recent transfer of funds, in March, provided funding for EcoMinga to secure 3 new properties in 3 different reserve areas:

- 98.8 acres (40 hectares) in Rio Machay
- 143 acres (58 hectares) in Cerro Candelaria
- 123.5 acres (50 hectares) in Rio Zunac



With funds raised from the Forests in the Sky Appeal WLT funded land purchase to create a protected wildlife corridor between Ecuador's two national parks. Since then additional threatened forest has been secured.

Focus on Bolivia

Prime real estate for Critically Endangered macaws

Blue-throated Macaws view penthouse suite

WLT supporters have helped Bolivian partner *Asociación Armonía* to create the *Baba Azul Reserve* covering 27,100 acres (11,000 hectares) for Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaws.

Because of loss of suitable trees for nesting and feeding, in 2009, *Armonía* began installing nest boxes. Disappointingly, those put up for the northern population were steadfastly rejected with not a single macaw showing interest. This was puzzling as in their southern range the nest box scheme had achieved good results with Blue-throated Macaws using 26 nest boxes and had fledged 81 chicks over the last 13 years. So why was it that the northern population chose to leave the reserve in November to breed in what was assumed to be palm tree stands in cattle ranches, leaving them highly vulnerable?

In 2017, Tjalle Boorsma, *Armonía's* Conservation Program Director, led a research party in search of breeding birds in the north and what he found was a complete eye-opener. He found that the



nesting holes chosen by the northern population were nothing like those preferred by the southern population who bred in cavities about three times higher and much more isolated from other trees.

After looking closely at their desired features, last year *Armonía* built five penthouse nest box suites and, as they had observed the birds taking a predictable sunset flight to their roosting site, they positioned the boxes in their flight path.

They found their dream home

In June *Barba Azul Reserve* guard, Carlos Roca, reported seeing a pair of Blue-throated Macaws perching on a penthouse nest box, and shortly afterwards Tjalle observed another pair not just perching on



Blue-throated Macaws take a sunset flight over the *Barba Azul Reserve* (top).

This may look like a stick into the sky but to a pair of Blue-throated Macaw it is the home they have been looking for.

the nest boxes but taking a good view inside and squabbling over the prime real-estate. This is a major break-through for the *Armonía* team who can now market suitable homes for them.

About the reserve

Roughly twice the size of Portugal, located in northern Bolivia, the *Beni Savanna's* natural habitat is almost entirely burned every year to clear the way for cattle. The good news is that the reserve permanently protects 27,180 acres (11,000 hectares) thanks to everyone who has supported land purchase and protection through *Armonía*. As well as these macaws the reserve harbours a wealth of other threatened wildlife including Jaguars, Pumas, Maned Wolves, Ocelots, Giant Anteaters and Black Howler Monkeys.

New law passed to protect critically endangered Guanaco population in Bolivia's Dry Chaco



The Chaco Guanaco population has plummeted to 200 in Bolivia as a result of habitat loss caused by agriculture, livestock farming and intensive hunting.

The Indigenous Autonomous Government of the Bolivian district of *Charagua Iyambae* has approved more than 700,000 acres (285,000 hectares) as a conservation area for the protection of the Guanaco which is Critically Endangered in the Bolivian Chaco. This is an area larger than Luxembourg.

The law follows a previous decision by the Indigenous Autonomous Government to protect the 1.2 million hectare conservation area at *Ñembi Guasu*.

Guarani, the indigenous people governing the Bolivian Chaco, have declared *Area de Vida Guajukaka* the fourth reserve in their territory, forming a continuous corridor of protected forests for Bolivian wildlife across the reserves. The Guarani local communities, whose land falls within the area, agreed to include their land in the *Area de Vida Guajukaka*. With the adoption of this new law, 70 per cent of the Guarani territory is now dedicated to nature conservation and Guanaco and other native species can travel safely, without risk.

Find out more

Visit the WLT website to find out more information about these and all WLT's projects, or sign up for our eBulletin to get monthly updates sent straight to your inbox. worldlandtrust.org

Buy an Acre - now is the time

Saving wilderness for the most northerly population of Jaguars

Buy an Acre is WLT's landmark programme which saves real acres in real places. In 1989, when WLT was launched, £25 would buy and protect one acre. 30 years on, we are still buying acres through our partners. But the cost of land has risen, and in some places hugely. So unfortunately not many of our projects fall within **Buy an Acre**, which we are still managing to keep to £100 an acre. The aim is to maintain a portfolio of **Buy an Acre** projects, adding to them as critically threatened land, with astonishing biodiversity, becomes available at that price.

New Buy an Acre project saving Jaguar habitat, Military Macaw nesting sites and migratory species

Where: Sonora, Northern Mexico

Target area to be secured:

3,953 acres (1,600 hectares)

Cost per acre: £100

The work being carried out by *Naturalia Comité para la Conservación de Especies Silvestres* (*Naturalia*) was brought to WLT's attention by Roberto Pedraza Ruiz, Head of Conservation for our partner *Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda* (*GESG*) in Mexico. Roberto subsequently invited the Director of *Naturalia*, Oscar Moctezuma Orozco, to give a presentation to all WLT partner representatives attending the 2016 Partner Symposium which was held in Sierra Gorda. Oscar gave an inspirational and exciting insight into their work.

About the new partnership Roberto said: **"Less than 4,000 Jaguars are left in Mexico, always facing increasing pressure from poachers and developers. But in the State of Sonora just south of the US border, still survives the most northerly population, living in the rugged foothills of the Sierra Madre. So, to learn about support from World Land Trust for the efforts of the local NGO *Naturalia* to expand its Northern Jaguar Reserve is the best way to start my day. Congratulations on this new partnership and happy Jaguars!"**

How much land?

Naturalia have requested support to purchase two properties totalling nearly 4,000 acres to expand and connect the *Reserva Jaguar del Norte* (Reserve of the North Jaguar).

The reserve currently covers 49,421 acre (20,000 hectares) with land owned by *Naturalia* covering 3,706 acres (1,500 hectares). The protection of subtropical scrub as well as oak forest in Sonora is a high priority. Inventories of the area have recorded 215 bird species, 48 reptiles and amphibians and 47 mammal species (including Jaguar). One of the properties is the only known nesting site for the Military Macaw in the region.

Buy an Acre, Save an Acre What's the difference?

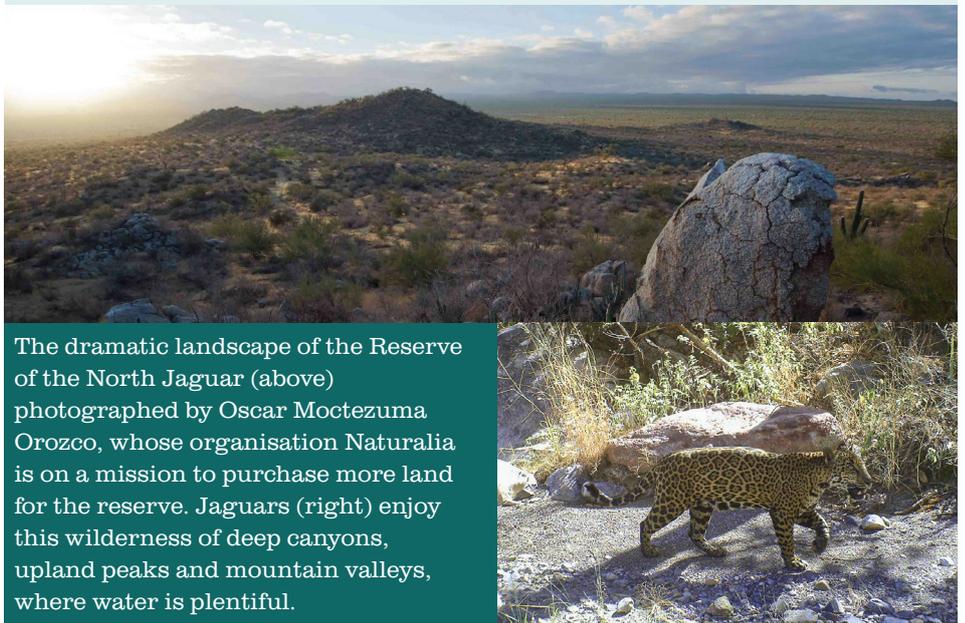
Sometimes land purchase isn't an option which is when our partners look at other ways of protecting land. Buying leases is an alternative which WLT is funding very successfully in Vietnam and Armenia, and leases can also become permanent. Another conservation tool is working towards the creation of community and state reserves. This requires our partner organisations to facilitate negotiations between indigenous communities, local government and landowners to work together to get protection for key habitats under threat. WLT has funded other types of community reserves in India and Peru.

Save an Acre projects are funded through the WLT Action Fund

Precious but not Protected

The Reserve of the North Jaguar to the east of the state of Sonora, was the first reserve established in Mexico with the chief objective of conserving the Jaguar. This is the most northerly population of Jaguar in the Americas, living alongside remarkable biodiversity of this little-known habitat.

The reserve lies just 270 km from the border with the United States and has been primarily a cattle and sheep ranching area since the 17th century. Perhaps not surprisingly, Jaguar, Puma and other predators can come into conflict with ranchers. Over the past decade the importance of working with landowners in conserving large predators is gaining momentum and is being implemented with relative success.



The dramatic landscape of the Reserve of the North Jaguar (above) photographed by Oscar Moctezuma Orozco, whose organisation *Naturalia* is on a mission to purchase more land for the reserve. Jaguars (right) enjoy this wilderness of deep canyons, upland peaks and mountain valleys, where water is plentiful.

IT'S OFFICIAL:

Tree planting mitigates climate change

An opportunity to plant 20,000 native trees in Borneo – help an Orang-utan!

According to a study recently published in the journal *Science*, planting trees is the best way to tackle rising temperatures and climate change.

The *Guardian* newspaper, which reported on this recent research, states: "Planting billions of trees across the world is by far the biggest and cheapest way to tackle the climate crisis, according to scientists, who have made the first calculation of how many more trees could be planted without encroaching on crop land or urban areas." The study does not address how a global tree planting programme would be paid for and delivered.

A tree today, a forest tomorrow

A golden opportunity has arisen to restore native forest to 110 acres on land previously cleared for oil palm plantations in Borneo. WLT is raising funds to enable our partner, Hutan, to plant 20,000 trees on land donated by Genting Plantations. The new forest will be incorporated into the Keruak Wildlife Corridor which runs along the north bank of the Kinabatangan River between Keruak Virgin Jungle Reserve and Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. This corridor was funded through WLT support.

As part of Hutan's larger reforestation programme, planting of native tree seedlings has begun. Seedlings are planted between the mature palms to ensure a gradual return of the area to natural forest.

This is a pioneering partnership between Hutan, Genting Plantations (palm oil producer), the Sabah State Government and the Sukau community in a bid to support biodiversity conservation in the Kinabatangan floodplain of Sabah.

Plant a tree

A £5 donation will plant a native tree to restore forest.
£25 will plant five trees.



Hutan's reforestation team are waiting to plant native trees to restore oil palm plantations back to natural forest.

Empowering women from local communities

Hutan's reforestation team is in charge of planting, maintaining and monitoring seedlings. The main team consists of 10 women from the Sukau community of Kinabatangan. Very few women in the village have permanent jobs and Hutan is proud to offer them this opportunity. In addition to its 10 permanent staff, an

internship programme offers up to 10 intern positions each month. The trainees learn the basics of tree planting and seedling maintenance techniques and participate in a year-long environmental education programme run by Hutan to raise awareness on the need to conserve natural habitat for wildlife.

Addressing climate change and saving wildlife

The tree planting carried out by our partners is a win-win situation. More trees are being planted to lock up carbon to combat climate change. Local communities are actively involved and forest cover is restored. And by allowing wildlife to move freely along the Kinabatangan river, human-wildlife conflict is reduced. Better still is the fact that forests are connected, giving more space for Endangered Orang-utans and Pygmy Elephants to move safely helping ensure their long term survival.

Dame Judi Dench meets Jenny and plants a tree in Borneo



Jenny is a wild Orang-utan living in the forests protected by WLT partner in Malaysian Borneo, Hutan. She has been at the centre of Hutan's non-intrusive research since 1989. Jenny is thought to be around 50 years old and has given birth to 6 young, most recently 4 years ago. Dame Judi watched her on her visit.



WLT's conservation partner, Hutan, had the pleasure of hosting Dame Judi Dench and her friend naturalist David Mills, during filming earlier this year of Atlantic Productions programme: *Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventure*.

Local resident and head of Hutan's Orang-utan research team, Hamisah Elahan showed Dame Judi around Hutan's field site and shared some stories and insights witnessed by the team over the past 21 years of field study of Orang-utans and their adaptation to live in the mixed forest-agricultural landscape of the Kinabatangan floodplain.

They were able to film a wild Orang-utan female, known as Jenny, and her latest offspring. In fact, Jenny, is a distinguished local resident herself, having provided a window into her life since the beginning of this long-term community conservation project in 1998 in Kinabatangan.

Dame Judi also met with Norinah Braim, head of the Hutan's reforestation team (see previous page) to share their mutual passion for trees. Together they planted a *Dracontomelon* sp. tree (known locally as Sengkuang); the fruit of this tree is a favourite with Orang-utans, who feast on the young leaves and fruit. It is crucial to

reconnect the protected forest fragments and to secure a safe passageway for wildlife along the Kinabatangan River. Dame Judi and David Mills were greatly inspired by the Hutan team and their work to restore degraded land and protection of wildlife in a region that has been so drastically changed by oil palm agricultural development over the past 30 years.

Plant a tree
A £5 donation will plant a native tree to restore forest.
£25 will plant five trees.



What can I do?

In WLT's new video we asked our patron Sir David Attenborough:
What can an individual do in the face of climate change?

Listen to Sir David's inspirational words in a world that is struggling to deal with how the huge issues surrounding climate change affects all 7.6 billion humans who share the Earth.

You can watch this short video on WLT's website or our YouTube channel.



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