

**Saving habitats
Saving species
since 1989**

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- A rare opportunity in Cameroon: on the gorilla trail
- Spotlight on hornbills: forest farmers in Sacred Groves
- Buy an Acre success in Mexico, new opportunity in Argentina

Saving Ecuador's Chocó forests

BIG MATCH FORTNIGHT

The home of Jaguar and horned frog is vanishing but could last forever - with your help

COUNTRY: ECUADOR
LAND: 1,668 ACRES
(675 HECTARES)

**TARGET
TO RAISE:** £500,000

PROJECT: Saving Chocó forest to expand Canandé Reserve

PARTNER: Fundación Jocotoco

HABITAT: Ecuadorian Chocó forest

KEY SPECIES:

Horned Marsupial Frog
Brown-Headed Spider Monkey
Jaguar
Purple Quail-Dove
Harpy Eagle
Great Green Macaw
Magnolia Canandean
Mache Glass Frog

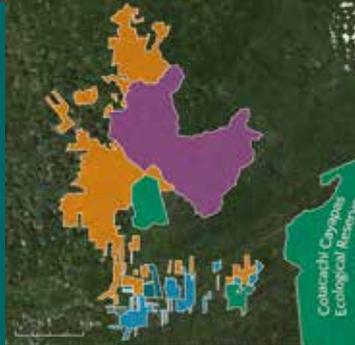
Less than 2 per cent of Ecuadorian Chocó forest remains. Its preservation is vital if endemic and endangered species are to survive.

Fundación Jocotoco's Canandé reserve lies in Ecuador's northwestern province of Esmeraldas in the western foot of the Andes. It protects one of the last remnants of the Chocó region in Ecuador, which ranks as the fourth most important hotspot for biodiversity in the world.

The coastal tropical rainforest of the Chocó once stretched unbroken in a huge swathe from southern Colombia to northern Ecuador, but this is no longer the case. Less than 2 percent of its original lowland forest survives yet, despite devastating clearance, the forests that are left hold innumerable species of plants and animals, many of which are endemic, and undoubtedly there are others waiting to be discovered. Human activities such as oil palm plantations and expansion of settlements have taken their toll and we must take advantage of the opportunity we now have to link together forest fragments while we can.



The Ecuadorian Chocó is one of the most threatened tropical forests on the planet, with less than 2 per cent of its original lowland forest remaining.



- Proposed Expansion
- WLT Supported Properties
- Canandé Reserve
- Chachi Indigenous Reserve
- Protected Area



How your donation will be used

This year's Big Match Fortnight aims to raise funds to purchase some of the last remaining western lowland Chocó rainforest in Esmeraldas Province.

Forest is currently available that would connect ten protected areas covering more than a million acres. By creating this unique corridor of forest on the western slopes of the Tropical Andes it will be possible to provide the best possible mitigation against climate change-induced extinctions as it will connect and span an altitudinal gradient from 100-4,900 metres above sea level, enabling species to shift to higher elevations as temperatures rise.

Horned Marsupial Frog



Once thought to be extinct, the Horned Marsupial Frog (*Gastrotheca cornuta*) was rediscovered in the Chocó in 2018. Ecuadorian herpetologist Dr Luis Coloma notes that at least five other marsupial-frog species of Ecuador have not been sighted for more than three decades.

This frog's horn-shaped "eyebrows" and its capacity to carry its eggs and tadpoles in a pouch on its body make it highly unusual.

The year's Big Match Fortnight is saving at least eight Critically Endangered species in the nick of time

The Canandé reserve is saving the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey from extinction.

With fewer than 500 individuals surviving in the wild it is considered one of the 25 most endangered primates in the world.

The good news is that Canandé reserve currently holds about 50 per cent of the population of this Critically Endangered species. With this new purchase we would be securing safe habitat for about 90 per cent of the total population.

Highly susceptible to human disturbance and habitat loss, hunting for their meat has also contributed to plummeting numbers. Coupled with that, their low reproductive rate (one young every 2-3 years) and high infant mortality means that populations are unable to build quickly. Canandé reserve also protects Mantled Howler and White Fronted Capuchin.

Trail cameras on the reserve have recorded four cat species: Jaguar, Puma, Ocelot and Margay and other mammals including White-lipped Peccary and Red Brocket Deer.

Bird surveys to date have recorded 375 species, including the Endangered Baudó Guan, Banded Ground-Cuckoo, Purple Quail-Dove, and Great Green Macaw.

Message from Dr Martin Schaefer, CEO of WLT's Ecuadorian partner, Fundación Jocotoco

“ The Chocó is as biodiverse as the Amazon, but far more threatened. We now have the unique opportunity to save the last remaining tract of pristine Chocó rainforest. Please support our project and save countless species from extinction. Thank you for helping us during Big Match Fortnight.”



Fundación Jocotoco's Canandé reserve currently protects around 50 per cent of the world's population of the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey (*Ateles fusciceps fusciceps*). If we are able to fund the expansion of the reserve that number would rise to 90 per cent, which is excellent news for this Critically Endangered species.

An opportunity to double your impact

1-14 October 2020

It is vital that we raise the funds for this land purchase as quickly as possible.

**BIG
MATCH
FORTNIGHT**
FUND

In our annual Big Match Fortnight, every donation made to the Chocó Appeal will be doubled by matched funds so we can reach our target faster. If you can support this appeal please consider making your donation between 1-14 October so it will make double the impact.

Donations can be made online at worldlandtrust.org, by post using the enclosed donation form, or by calling the World Land Trust office 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday on 01986 874422.



On the gorilla trail: A new corridor to let nature thrive in Cameroon

COUNTRY: CAMEROON
LAND: 23,692 ACRES
(9,588 HECTARES)

Tropical & Subtropical Moist
Broadleaf Forests

KEY SPECIES:

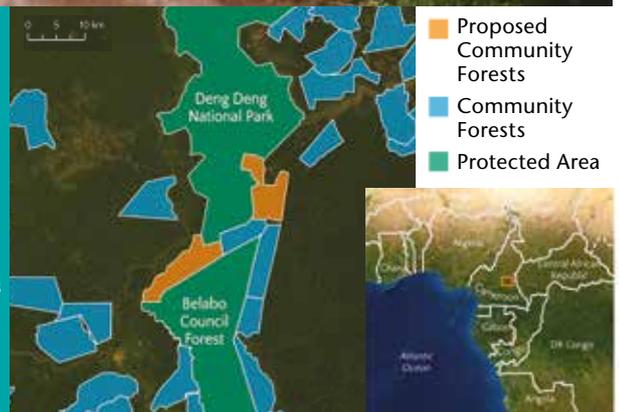
Western Lowland Gorilla
Chimpanzee
African Forest Elephant
Giant Ground Pangolin
White-bellied Pangolin
Leopard
African Grey Parrot



Our new project in Cameroon aims to permanently protect a corridor of forest between Deng-Deng National Park and Belabo Council Forest, which will ensure safe passage for great apes, pangolins and a host of species facing threats from deforestation.

Deng-Deng National Park, created in 2009, covers 224 square miles and was established primarily to protect the habitat of the northernmost known population of Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), as well as the Forest Elephant and Hippos.

Above: The forest road marks the boundary between Deng-Deng National Park (to the left) and the proposed Community Forest Reserves (to the right). The size of the 2 community reserves together will be 23,692 acres (9,588 hectares (5,000 + 4,588)). **Map:** The new land targeted for protection.



Ensuring survival of Critically Endangered gorillas



The Western Lowland Gorillas in Deng-Deng National Park number around 300 individuals but at present the forests connecting them to populations further south are under pressure. The new corridor will provide a link to ensure they do not become victims of inbreeding.

The Western Lowland Gorilla is exclusively vegetarian and lives in family groups led by a dominant male, distinguished by his silver whitish back. The size of groups varies between two to twenty animals, and is formed of the dominant male and several females and infants. Females give birth to a single young any time of year, after a nine month gestation.

About our partner

Established in 1999, Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) has spent more than two decades at the

forefront of conservation in Cameroon.

Founded by Louis Nkembi, an agro-economist, ERuDeF works to protect ecosystems including inland forests – much like this new corridor – as well as coastal mangroves and highland savanna. Local communities are at the forefront of its work giving support to environmentally-friendly farming and women empowerment initiatives.

<https://erudef.org/deng-deng-conservation-corridor-project/>



Hornbills: Forest farmers scattering seeds of hope in India




Above: Dr Archana Godbole and Jayant Sarnaik, founders of WLT's partner, AERF, who are working to save the biodiversity of the North Western Ghats.

Left: The Great (Pied) Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) is one of the largest of the hornbills, photographed here in a Sacred Grove in the Western Ghats of India, protected with help from WLT donors.

Flashy birds with their over-sized beaks, the world's 62 species of hornbill occur across Africa, tropical Asia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, where they are icons of their forest habitat.

Hornbills are often referred to as the 'farmers of the forest' as they disperse the seeds of many tropical trees, playing an important role in keeping the forest alive. Unfortunately they are threatened by severe habitat loss and hunting.

WLT has been working with AERF in the Western Ghats of India for the past two years, as part of a 10 year commitment. Since then, through support from WLT's Action Fund, AERF has been able to secure 400 acres (162 hectares) in the Kulye-Phansavle corridor in Ratnagiri district.

AERF's ambition is to protect further private forests and sacred groves through innovative community-based conservation easements to save fragile upland forests from further fragmentation and degradation.

The Western Ghats is the mountain range running parallel to the west coast of India and the north Western Ghats is part of Western Ghats global biodiversity hotspot. Unfortunately, while the landscape harbours unique biodiversity it lacks legal protection. For the past 25 years AERF has been working with local communities (many of whom are very poor) using innovative mechanisms to mainstream biodiversity conservation in this open access landscape.

Big trees and hornbills: a mutually beneficial interdependence

Sacred groves in Ratnagiri's district boast many giant trees that provide nesting cavities. In the surrounding landscape, such giant trees do not survive, so Ratnagiris are the last refuge for hornbills. An age old mutually beneficial interdependence of hornbills and sacred groves plays a crucial role in regeneration of forest tree species in

the remaining landscape.

These giant trees also provide a raft of ecosystem services such as pollination. Most of the sacred groves have a perennial source of water in the form of tanks and other traditional water harvesting structures – water being of utmost importance in this region. In summary, sacred groves are gene banks and ecosystem service providers of extraordinary importance to humanity.

What is the WLT Action Fund

The Action Fund is WLT's unrestricted conservation fund which allows the Trust to direct funding quickly to where it is most urgently needed. Funds may be used for any of WLT's key projects and appeals, and occasionally, when emergencies occur, the Action Fund enables us to respond quickly to urgent requests from our programme partners. worldlandtrust.org/appeals/action-fund/

Corporate Supporters are a lifeline

The focus is on sustainability



The Cheeky Panda helps protect home of 'Asian Unicorn'



Laying claim to being the first business of its kind in the UK, The Cheeky Panda has created a range of ultra-sustainable, low carbon bamboo tissue products and has pledged support for WLT since its humble beginnings.

A young cub it may be, but The Cheeky Panda has already notched some impressive green victories in its four years of existence. The brand was created in 2016 after Chris Forbes and his partner, Julie Chen, visited China and discovered that 90 per cent of the bamboo harvested was thrown away. Passionate about sustainability, they set about devising a way of using the waste bamboo to make truly eco-friendly toilet tissue. Their reasoning being that an estimated 27,000 trees are flushed away as toilet paper every day. Bamboo grows at a much faster rate than trees, and must be harvested once a year to prevent it flowering and dying.

Sustainability is at the heart of the business and as part of their commitment they chose WLT's Carbon Balanced programme to offset the unavoidable emissions arising from all steps required to make this product – spanning production, manufacturing and distribution.

By supporting Carbon Balanced they are helping protect the Khe Nuoc Trong rainforest in Vietnam, home to the elusive Saola ("Asian Unicorn"), as well as a hugely rich species diversity. The Cheeky Panda's support of Khe Nuoc Trong will benefit humans and wildlife alike as the reserve is a veritable climate powerhouse, with estimates that it will sequester on its own some 50,000 CO₂ tonnes per year over the next 30 years.

A young panda can go a long way in three decades and we look forward to being part of The Cheeky Panda's journey.



The lush Annamite forests between Vietnam and Laos are being protected by WLT partner, Viet Nature through the Carbon Balanced programme. Discovered in 1992, the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) only occurs in these forests. It is thought to number less than 100, and is so rare it has become known as the "Asian Unicorn".

'One job, one tree' pledge: Robert Walters delivers double win for people and planet

Robert Walters, a specialist professional recruitment business present across 31 countries worldwide, has committed to planting a tree for every permanent candidate they place during 2020. The move is poised to boost the already sizeable numbers of the WLT's **Plant a Tree** programme – to date, the scheme has unlocked funds for the planting of 2,389,847 native trees with our partners.

Robert Walters Group also Carbon Balances unavoidable emissions.

“Carbon Balancing with WLT gives us a way of helping put back what we are taking away. I would urge everyone to think deeply about what is important in life and to consider the consequences of daily activities. The money that is given to the WLT, in my estimation, has more effect on the wild world than almost anything I can think of.”

Sir David Attenborough, Patron

Let us help your company

You too can take positive action and offset unavoidable carbon emissions through Carbon Balanced.

- Voluntarily offset your unavoidable emissions through protection and restoration of threatened habitats.
- By protecting habitats that are under imminent threat of destruction, you are preventing the release of the CO₂ stored within them into the atmosphere.
- By allowing already degraded habitats to recover and regrow, they will absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere – creating an 'offset' as a result.

For more information:

worldlandtrust.org/carbon-calculator

12,471 tCO₂e represents the total tonnes of carbon emissions businesses have pledged to offset through Carbon Balanced over the first half of 2020. This total is equal to sequestering nearly double the annual emissions of a council of Oxford's size.

The music of conservation wins

From heavy metal to violins, there's a shared commitment to protecting land with WLT

HUMAN :||: NATURE – The new Nightwish album at the heart of conservation

Finnish band, Nightwish, celebrated the release of their new studio album **Human :||: Nature** on 10th April, bringing a whole new audience to WLT.

This unique new partnership sees the internationally acclaimed band helping to raise the profile of WLT, and talking about our work to their millions of fans.

"In this digital age, we have new opportunities to connect with global audiences directly - in this instance, through music. The wellbeing of the planet affects everybody and Nightwish is passionate about conservation and protecting threatened species. I am delighted that they are supporting WLT's work."

Jonathan Barnard, CEO

WLT's work with Mexican partner Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG) resonated with the band, who chose to help fund the expansion of the Cerro Prieto reserve.

Roberto Pedraza Ruiz, the Head of GESG's Conservation Programme, stressed the importance of increasing the size of the reserve to protect the forests where species new to science are still being discovered, saying:

"Signs of illegal logging activities were all around. With this funding we have been able to halt this destruction and protect wildlife. Thanks to Nightwish's support we have been able to ensure that conservation wins the day. Thank you from Mexico."

As we go to press Nightwish are still hoping to include the UK in their European tour. Dates are:
16 Dec: Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff
18 Dec: London's SSE Arena, Wembley
See their website for details
<https://nightwish.com/#tour>



Formed in 1996, Finnish band Nightwish has been a staple of the heavy metal scene for decades. Known for their trademark mix of symphonic metal with female operative vocals, lead singer and keyboardist Tuomas Holopainen, singer Floor Jansen, bassist Marco Hietala, guitarist Emppu Vuorinen, drummer Kai Hahto and pipe player Troy Donockley are also staunch advocates of conservation - a theme that runs through their latest album **Human :||: Nature** and is demonstrated by the partnership they struck this year to support WLT through partner, Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda.

Ingles & Hayday establish a reputation for ethical violin dealing

Thank you also to Ingles & Hayday, a specialist fine and rare musical instrument auction house and dealership. Established in 2012 they were keen to address their carbon footprint from the word go.

As co-founder Paul Hayday explains: *"Back in 2016 we asked ourselves how our activities negatively affect the environment and what could we do to reduce our carbon footprint."*

Their solution was to sign up to Carbon Balancing with WLT.

The ensuing partnership has so far delivered more than 170 tonnes of offset CO₂ emissions via investments in Carbon Balanced projects. This is music to our ears and testament to the difference we can make when we realise that – as Paul Hayday puts it: *"no one is too insignificant"* to help the fight against climate change.



WLT publications are printed on recycled Carbon Balanced Paper supplied by Denmaur Paper Media, reducing the carbon impact of print communications. Ask your printer to quote on Carbon Balanced Paper.



carbonbalancedpaper.com
You can download the brochure as a pdf.
worldlandtrust.org

Buy an Acre. £100 = One Acre

New opportunity to save Chaco wildlife in Argentina
Funds raised to extend reserve in Mexico



A new **Buy an Acre** project this autumn will see the protection of Gran Chaco in Argentina in a region that is essential for the survival of the southernmost, and possibly genetically isolated, population of the globally Endangered Chaco Peccary (or Taguá.). This rich ecosystem also safeguards the only known population of Chaco Guanaco in Argentina.

Through **Buy an Acre** you can help create the “Chaco Taguá Biological Corridor” which will connect two protected areas within the Córdoba region: the recently created “Traslasierra” National Park to the north and the Natural Park and Provincial Natural Forest Reserve of “Chancaní”.

Two thirds of the Gran Chaco lies in Argentina and is critically threatened by agricultural expansion.

Celebrating Buy an Acre success in Mexico: Funding completed!

Buy an Acre donations have funded new land purchase which sees the expansion of Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda's (GESG) Cerro Prieto-Cerro de la Luz reserve in Mexico.

The property was a critical addition as it fills a gap between existing parts of the Cerro Prieto Reserve and effectively blocks any plan to build a logging road, removing a potential threat.

The jagged limestone landscape is unique with its deep sinkholes and ancient oaks growing alongside bromeliads and agave, together with a quintessential cloud forest and temperate forest habitat.

It is estimated that some 350 species of birds travel from different parts of the United States and Canada to Mexico thanks to the wealth and diversity that offers them rest from the winter.



High humidity from the Gulf of Mexico creates a cloud forest that harbours an incredible amount of bromeliads, mosses, orchids and surprisingly, agaves, that thrive in the very wet environment.

Right: Bumblebee Hummingbird - a rare resident of the reserve.

Buy an Acre

Save one acre for £100, half an acre for £50 or quarter of an acre for £25. You can make your donation using the form enclosed, by telephone (WLT office 01986 874422) or online:

worldlandtrust.org

Your support is catching. Commit to conservation by becoming a WLT Friend

Regular charitable gifting is inspirational and often leads to new donors - perhaps your friends and family - getting involved too. At a time when using our voice is of utmost importance, by supporting WLT and our partners you will become part of

a global community, inspiring others to work together to protect the world around us. Friends' donations are used for our most urgent projects.
worldlandtrust.org/supporting/friends



Find out more . . .

About WLT: Who we Are; How we Work; Getting Involved. Visit the WLT website for latest news, answers to your questions and see our impact.

Sign up for our eBulletin to get monthly updates direct to your inbox.

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