



# World Land Trust-US

2007 Annual Report

## **Mission**

World Land Trust–US is dedicated to buying and protecting lands that conserve rare or endangered species or critically endangered ecosystems with high biodiversity. We work largely in the rainforest and cloud forests of the Latin American tropics, the world's highest biodiversity priority, holding about 30% of the planet's species.

## **Methods**

WLT-US focuses on concrete projects, such as land purchase or the creation of new natural protected areas. In each of our projects we work through local conservation groups who own and manage the reserves that we help create. Our partners are a fabulous group of organizations, and we look forward to expanding their number in the years to come.

## **Accomplishments**

Since our founding in 1989 we have saved more than 800,000 acres of high priority lands. In 2007 WLT-US bought and conserved lands for some of the most endangered species and critical habitats in six Latin American countries. With many more projects in development, we granted more than \$1,880,000 to local organizations to buy and manage natural reserves of exceptional biodiversity value. Often these lands are acquired for \$100 per acre or less.

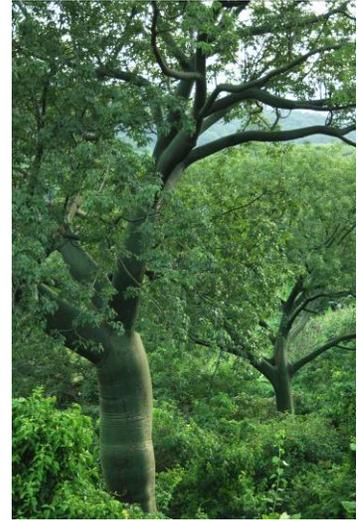
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## 2007 Letter to Supporters

We are pleased to report that 2007 was World Land Trust-US's most successful year, with more than \$2 million raised to secure rare and vanishing habitats.

Highlights of 2007 included:

- Purchase and protection of key remnants of tropical dry forests—as much threatened as rainforests—at the Sierra de los Alamos reserve in Mexico and at the Jorupe Reserve in southwest Ecuador. The Jorupe Reserve, owned and managed by Fundación Jocotoco, protects a host of Tumbesian endemics, including 59 endemic bird species. A new ecolodge planned for Jorupe Reserve will help provide management costs of the reserve.
- Expansion of Fundación Jocotoco reserves protecting endangered species of birds, including Buenaventura, home of the El Oro Parakeet; Yunguilla, home of the Pale-headed Brush Finch; Tapichalaca, home of the Jocotoco Antpitta, and Yanacocha, home of the Black-breasted Puffleg.
- Opening of the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center with its canopy tower, offering an alternative experience to tourists on the cruise ships in the Panama Canal Zone. WLT-US Conservation Director Robert Ridgely was joined at the dedication of the center by the President of Panama.
- Purchase and protection of endangered Atlantic Rainforest at two developing reserves: Reserva Ecologica Guapiaçu (REGUA) in southeastern Brazil and the San Rafael Reserve in Paraguay.
- Purchase and protection of undisturbed *caatinga* habitat (dry thorn scrub with rare ephemeral species) by Associação Plantas do Nordeste (APNE) at Fazenda Almas, the largest such reserve in the northeast Brazilian state of Paraíba.



We have also begun programs that promise sustainable financing of protected areas—to assure that funds are available for management once the areas are created. We are working with Fundación Jocotoco to expand ecotourism revenues at key reserves, and with Nature and Culture Ecuador Foundation to create sustainable revenues from low-impact hydro projects. In both cases, revenues will be dedicated to supporting conservation programs in the region.

The satisfaction that comes from having achieved so much success in land conservation is extraordinary. We all can take great pride in what we are doing. Together we're working to conserve key sites, and we are ensuring that more of our planet's biological riches will endure for future generations to enjoy and cherish.

Thank you so much for your support, and let's keep at it!

Handwritten signature of Byron Swift in black ink.

Byron Swift  
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Robert S. Ridgely in blue ink.

Robert S. Ridgely  
Deputy Director

## 2007 Project Descriptions

**Fundación Jocotoco, Ecuador.** WLT-US donors funded critical acquisitions at Yunguilla, Tapichalaca, Jorupe, Yanacocha, and Buenaventura Reserves, as well as providing operating support for management of these reserves. Fundación Jocotoco owns and operates eight reserves that protect the habitats of over a dozen species of critically endangered birds. It hires local park guards to patrol and manage the reserves and to work with local communities so that they better understand, support, and benefit from the Foundation's programs. The foundation also undertakes programs in research, reforestation, and other activities to support conservation. WLT-US raises funds each year so that more lands can be added to the reserves to insure their biodiversity.



White-tailed Jay

**The Reserva Ecologica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), in Brazil** protects one of the last large tracts of tropical forest left in the severely depleted Atlantic Rainforest (Mata Atlantica) of eastern Brazil. REGUA is home to at least 420 species of birds—of which 120 are endemic to the coastal Atlantic Rain Forest biome—as well as mammals such as woolly spider monkey and puma. WLT-US donors contributed towards the purchase of 1,000 hectares, supported the restoration of a large wetland area that had been drained and turned into pasture thirty years ago, and assisted with the reintroduction of the critically endangered Red-billed Curassow. WLT is now trying to raise the funds for eight additional land acquisition projects.

**Fazenda Almas, Brazil.** WLT-US is working with Associação Plantas do Nordeste to protect 3,505 hectares (8,650 acres) of undisturbed *caatinga* habitat at Fazenda Almas, with excellent representation of the native floristic diversity, much of which is endemic. Although the arid *caatinga* is northeastern Brazil's prevalent vegetation, virtually all the land has been converted to other uses or so over-grazed that the original beauty and species diversity has been lost. If we are successful in raising the needed funds, this will become the largest reserve of undisturbed *caatinga* in the Brazilian state of Paraíba.



Savanna Hawk

**Osa Biodiversity Center, Costa Rica.** The Osa Peninsula holds one of the last large areas of Pacific coastal rainforest in Central America. WLT-US donors are supporting research on three rare bird species restricted to the region of the peninsula, the Mangrove Hummingbird, Yellow-billed Cotinga, and Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, to identify the areas needed as permanently protected habitat for their survival.



**Sierra de Alamos Reserve, Mexico.** WLT-US provided the funds to purchase 1,200 acres in 2007 to expand Nature and Culture International's private reserve within the Sierra de Alamos in northern Mexico to 14,000 acres. This reserve protects the northernmost tropical deciduous forest in the Americas, a highly diverse but endangered ecosystem that used to extend from Sonora to southern Central America, but is now highly fragmented. This biome is important for its many endemic species, as well as providing wintering habitat for neotropical migratory birds. Conservation activities focus on land purchase and management, scientific research, and community involvement programs.

**Cloud Forests, Ecuador.** We are helping the Mindo Cloud Forest Foundation buy and protect key habitat in Mindo, the town where avitourism was born in Ecuador, known for its astonishing variety of hummingbirds, tanagers, and other rare fauna and flora.



**Fundación Avifauna Eugene Eisenmann, Panama.** Thanks to generous donors, WLT-US has helped the international effort to build the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center near the biologically diverse Soberanian National Park at the Panama Canal. This state-of-the-art facility will promote conservation of rainforest habitat to the canal's international visitors and the millions of Panamanians who live close by.

**The San Rafael Reserve** in southeastern **Paraguay** is one of the most important tracts of Atlantic Forest remaining in Paraguay. More than 310 bird species have been recorded there, 11 of them globally threatened. These forests also protect a watershed of the Paraguay-Paraná river system that is important for the survival of the indigenous cultures remaining in the Paraguayan Atlantic Forest. Donors to WLT provided the funds to Guyra Paraguay to buy 1,500 acres of beautiful forested land and natural savannas at \$100 per acre in 2007. (These are the forests seen in the poignant movie, "The Mission.") Eventually, Guyra Paraguay and partner organizations plan to purchase and protect 40,000 acres as a core private reserve.



WLT

## WLT-US 2007 major project grants and partners

<u>Ecuador</u>		<u>\$ USD</u>
Bilsa Reserve (Fundación Jatun Sacha)	Land Purchase	35,000
Yunguilla Reserve (Fundación Jocotoco)	Land Purchase	25,000
Cosanga Valley (Napo Andean Forest Fd)	Land Purchase	30,000
Jorupe Reserve (ABC/ Fundación Jocotoco)	Land Purchase	75,000
Mindo Cloud Forest Reserve (MCF Fd)	Land Purchase	12,000
Buenaventura Reserve (ABC/Jocotoco)	Land Purchase	40,000
General Operations (Fundación Jocotoco)	Land Management	120,000
 <u>Mexico</u>		
Alamos reserve (Nature and Culture Intl)	Land Purchase	50,000
 <u>Brazil</u>		
Fazenda Almas (Assoc. Plantas do NE)	Land Management	25,000
REGUA Reserve (REGUA)	Land Purchase and Management	50,000
 <u>Panama</u>		
Panama Rainforest Discovery Center (Fundacion Avifauna)	Construction	241,000
 <u>Paraguay</u>		
San Rafael Reserve (ABC/Guyra Paraguay)	Land Purchase	135,000
 <u>Other general operating support</u>		
EO Wilson Biodiversity Program (EOWilson Foundation)		245,000
Sustainable Finance Hydro (Naturaleza y Cultura Ecuador)		575,000

## Financial Support

World Land Trust wishes to thank all those whose contributions made these projects possible, including the following institutions:

American Bird Conservancy (Ecuador program)  
Beneficia Foundation (Fazenda Almas, Brazil and general programs)  
Blue Moon Fund (Support for endangered Ecuador dry forests)  
Clyde's, Inc.  
Damuth Foundation (REGUA, Brazil)  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (Loreto, Peru program)  
Jewish Communal Fund (Nangaritza valley, Ecuador and general program)  
March Foundation  
Pacific Endowment (Sustainable finance hydro program)  
therainforestsites.com (San Rafael, Paraguay)  
Wild Waters Foundation (Cosanga Ecuador and others)  
Wild Woods Foundation (general program)  
World Land Trust (San Rafael, Paraguay and others)

Contributors through the Combined Federal Campaign  
Many generous individual donors.

## Priorities for 2008

**Ecuador critical sites.** In 2008 we continue our long-standing work with Fundación Jocotoco to establish private reserves for critically endangered species in Ecuador. Land acquisition goals include: purchasing 2,000 acres of endangered Chocó forest to add to the Rio Canandé Reserve; adding 600 acres of El Oro Parakeet habitat to the Buenaventura Reserve in southern Ecuador; and establishing the Ayampe Reserve near the Pacific coast to protect the Esmeraldas Woodstar (right). Construction is underway for a visitor lodge at the Jorupe Reserve, protecting rare dry tropical forest and establishing the anchor of a new Southern Ecuador ecotourism route.



**Antisana, Ecuador.** A major project goal for 2008 will be to work with Ecuadorian and international partners to enable permanent protection of the 200,000 acre Antisana Ecological Reserve (pictured below). Only fifty kilometers southeast of Quito, the reserve includes the dramatic Antisana Volcano, a vast expanse of high paramo grassland, and beautiful cloud forests on the eastern slopes. The Antisana paramo has been impacted by human activities and intensive grazing for centuries, and it is our goal to return it to its former glory as a wild environment. We are raising funds to purchase the haciendas that control access to the reserve and to restore the indigenous wildlife to the region, working in partnership with Ecuadorian organizations.



**Critical sites in Colombia.** WLT-US is launching a partnership with Fundación ProAves to protect the most endangered species and habitats in the northern Andes. Land acquisition goals include acquiring the last block of lowland humid forest in the Magdalena valley that holds the core population of the two critically endangered species, the Blue-billed Curassow and Variegated Spider-monkey. In 2008, our target is to protect 11,700 acres at \$34 an acre.

**Atlantic Forest and Caatinga, Brazil and Paraguay.** WLT-US will continue to support ongoing land purchase and conservation projects to protect Atlantic Rainforest, including acquisition of at least 5,000 acres at REGUA in eastern Brazil and at San Rafael in Paraguay. Additionally, the goal for the Fazenda Almas Reserve in northeastern Brazil is to purchase 12,000 acres of pristine *caatinga* habitat to consolidate the reserve.

**Beni Wet Savanna, Bolivia.** WLT-US and its partners plan to establish a reserve in the seasonally flooded savannas of Beni, a habitat that is protected nowhere else. The savannas are the last refuge of the Blue-throated Macaw, along with millions of waterbirds and mammals including the Giant Armadillo, Giant Anteater, and Giant Otter.

**Cloud Forest Reserves, Ecuador.** We are raising funds to buy cloud forests that conserve an astonishing variety of hummingbirds, tanagers, and other rare species. We plan to assist the Mindo Cloud Forest Foundation, the Napo Andean Forest Foundation, and Nature and Culture International to buy critical cloud forest habitat for endangered species throughout Ecuador.

## Board of Directors 2008

John Mitchell, Chair,  
NY Botanical Garden

Gerard Bertrand, Vice-chair  
Honorary Chair, WLT (UK)

Sally F. Davidson, Treasurer  
Chair, Clyde's Restaurant Group

Dr. Wayt Thomas  
Curator of Botany, NY Botanical Garden

Dr. Robert Ridgely  
World Land Trust-US, Author

Byron Swift, Secretary  
Executive Director, WLT-US

## World Land Trust – US 2007 Financial Summary

	<u>2007</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Campaign Income	53,562
Contributions – Restricted	2,291,781
Individuals	1,093,794
Foundations	1,066,000
Organizations	131,987
Contributions - Unrestricted	140,786
Interest Income	10,553
Miscellaneous Income	54
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>2,496,738</u></b>
Expense	
Accounting & Admin Expense	6,720
Bank Service Charges	851
Consulting Fees	12,447
Fundraising Expense	1,427
Health Insurance	17,988
Insurance	780
Licenses and Permits	75
Meals & Entertainment	186
Miscellaneous	1,512
Office Supplies	11,003
Postage and Delivery	273
Program Expense	15,873
Project Grants	1,883,866
Rent	4,822
Salaries	93,654
Salaries - benefits	31,954
Telephone	3,813
Travel	11,817
Web site	612
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>2,099,682.26</u></b>



**The photographs in this report, unless otherwise noted, were taken at the Jorupe Reserve in southwest Ecuador by wildlife photographer Murray Cooper.**



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