

IMPACT

in 2023



**WORLD
LAND
TRUST**

Charity Number 1001291

Saving land.
Saving species.



Report from our Chair and CEO

Myles Archibald, WLT Chair of Trustees

What makes World Land Trust (WLT) stand out as a conservation charity is that our supporters know that their donations, no matter how large or small, will go directly to where they will have the most impact. I believe now more than ever that people feel the importance of conservation and want to do whatever they can protect the natural world. WLT provides a sure and tangible way for them to do so.

WLT is a bridge between our community of dedicated supporters and our growing network of conservation partners across the world. I hope that this report will bring home the collective action of all those who have made WLT's work possible at this crucial time for the planet. 2023 saw WLT grow as an organisation, expanding the team and implementing a new supporter database. This enabled us to better focus our objectives and further improve relationships across our network. We are continually heartened by the commitment our supporters, from our Corporate Partners to life-long WLT Friends to

annual appeal donors, show to preserving land and wildlife, adapting to economic and political pressures and increasing their impact each year.

Throughout 2023 and into 2024 and beyond, WLT will continue to strengthen our supporter base and increase our conservation impact overseas. As Chair of Trustees, I know that all the board are delighted to commit our time and attention to a cause we all continue to steadfastly believe in. It is thus especially pleasing to see that in the last year the Trust has supported more partners than ever before. The targets we set out in our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan were ambitious – as they should be. As the Trust enters the final years of that plan, it is heartening that they are still very much achievable. WLT delivered great conservation impact in 2023. The Trustees and I continue to be committed to achieve even more.

Image credit: Front cover – Inaki Relanzon.



Dr Catherine Barnard, CEO

In the current global political climate, it can often feel as though conservation and the people who spend their lives advocating for it are isolated in our concerns, and at times even shouting into a vacuum. We have seen climate records falling at an accelerating rate, and insufficient government action. Even with something that should be as uncontroversial as stopping deforestation we're failing: the World Resources Institute has identified that we are massively off-track to reach 2030 targets of zero deforestation, and even worse, the trends are in the wrong direction. With the UK government having announced a rollback on green measures to meet our own national targets, and Climate COPs 28&29 being held in petrostates it might even feel as if we are taking steps backwards.

However, in the face of these challenges, both global and local, the work of our partners, made possible by the wellspring of support from our donor base, gives me tremendous hope for the future. Our progress throughout the year, in each of our acres saved, trees planted, and rangers supported offer continuous, measurable proof that progress can be made and with it, extraordinary things were made possible.

In the following report you will find examples of the work carried out at the conservation projects overseen by WLT's partners. These pages will show you how we harnessed nature-based solutions to benefit biodiversity, climate change mitigation, clean water provision, and global and local communities. By helping our partners to preserve some of the world's most

biodiverse and threatened land, restore degraded habitats, protect wildlife, and defend nature from both human and environmental threats, we are moving assuredly closer to our strategic goals and a protected natural world.

We know what needs to be done and how to do it, and it is up to us as conservationists, activists, philanthropists, businesses, and global citizens to spread the word and continue our work. We do not shy away from the challenges we face, instead we continue to act with hope and optimism, knowing that all we do counts towards the future of our planet.



2023 IN FOCUS

2023 brought many successes, such as meeting our goals of connecting priority habitats and maintaining forests within WLT-backed reserves for a third year running. We met five of the nine Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set out in our Strategic Plan.

One 2025 target had even already been previously achieved in 2022, when we surpassed the goal of working with 36 active partners. That number grew again with five

new partners in 2023, taking us to a total of 52. We received reports of 1,368 species recorded in 2023 by our partners that had not previously been found within WLT-supported project areas, 22 of which are globally threatened¹.

As multiple plans were finalised for 2024, we are confident that WLT is on track to meet its strategic goals. The ambitious challenge our goals present reflects WLTs commitment

to increase our impact beyond what is comfortable and strive for far-reaching change. Because of the generosity and conviction of our supporters, the following pages will show an array of projects securing and restoring land to save some of the most rare and vulnerable habitats on the planet.

¹Species are classed as threatened according to the Red List of Threatened Species, maintained by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and refer to Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable species.

New partners in 2023



Image credit: Left -David Pattyn. Right, left to right - Shutterstock, IMD Archive, Inaki Relanzon, ORCT, Snow Leopard Foundation.

Strategic plan KPI performance

WLT's achievements and performance in 2023

Total priority land saved

In 2023, WLT saved 152,205 ha of priority land, 74,987 ha (49%) of which was funded solely by WLT. A further 87,034 ha was co-funded and 184 ha leveraged. Though we did not meet our KPI for 2023, as with the previous year, WLT is engaged in supporting several land acquisitions that have a time-lag between raising and committing funding to a partner, and the land then being legally acquired and counting towards the KPI. We have a pipeline of committed acquisitions that means we remain confident of meeting our 2025 target.

Total priority habitats connected

In 2023 WLT supported three corridors: two as part of the Canandé project (bridging the gap between partner properties and the Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve), and one in the A Rocha Dakatcha Nature Reserve project (a corridor between partner properties). An additional area of 2,318 ha was brought into WLT's contiguous network by these three corridors.

Biodiversity maintained in WLT-backed reserves

WLT's partners reported information on over 430 populations of key indicator species at 73 reserves that WLT has helped to establish, with partners monitoring the ongoing presence of species at these sites. This includes data for more than 200 species that are globally threatened (classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN). In 2023, this monitoring produced an average population persistence figure of 97.15%, marginally below our KPI target of 98%. We will be following up with partners and their species monitoring in 2024 and 2025 to determine if there is an identifiable reason behind the fall in this KPI.

During 2023 we reviewed our KPI metrics on New WLT Donors and Share of income disbursed to WLT Partners previously reported in 2022, as they were not delivering useful metrics towards our strategic aims. These are not being reported in 2023.

Year	Target	Performance
2021	160,000 ha	189,349 ha
2022	340,000 ha	261,062 ha
2023	540,000 ha	413,267 ha
2024	760,000 ha	
2025	1,000,000 ha	

Year	Target	Performance
2021	400,000 ha	1,216,758 ha
2022	800,000 ha	1,568,592 ha
2023	1,200,000 ha	1,570,910 ha
2024	1,600,000 ha	
2025	2,000,000 ha	

Year	Target	Performance
	Population persistence levels of key indicator species at >98%	
2021		98.88%
2022	>98%	98.91%
2023	>98%	97.15%
2024	>98%	
2025	>98%	

Forests maintained in WLT-backed reserves

The 2023 forest loss assessment was based on 103 WLT projects started during or before 2023. Meeting our KPI, the -0.17% forest loss rate recorded in these projects compares extremely favourably to the rates outside project borders, demonstrating the impact of our partners' conservation activities. For comparison, WLT assessed forest loss rates in a 20km area outside each project and found an average of -0.45% within other protected areas and -1.37% on unprotected land. The target figure of -0.35% is based on the natural rate of forest loss in forested wilderness areas, where there is a natural turnover in forests through natural mortality of trees, storm damage and landslips.

Number of active WLT partners

WLT met this target once again in 2023, increasing our number of active conservation partners to 52.

Income increasing by at least 15% year on year

The £10,232,000 raised from all sources in 2023 is the highest annual income recorded in WLT's history. This represents year-on-year growth of 16.4%, meeting our KPI of at least 15% year-on-year growth. 2023 saw particular growth in Trusts and Foundations income – an increase of 42.3% compared to 2022 and legacy income raised a total of £803K, a growth of 47.6% compared to 2022.

Spending on growth and future income

During 2023, 2.4% of WLT's spending went towards growth and future income. WLT continued to focus on the benefit realisation of the new CRM system and Conservation Grant Making database. The brand refresh required adjustments to timelines which has led to the investment in this being rolled out in 2024 rather than commencing in 2023 as anticipated.

Year	Target	Performance
2021	Forest loss rates not surpassing -0.35%*	-0.30%
2022	<-0.35%	-0.27%
2023	<-0.35%	-0.17%
2024	<-0.35%	
2025	<-0.35%	

* This includes adjustment of the 2021 and 2022 figures according to latest Hansen estimates.

Year	Target	Performance
2021	30	37
2022	33	47
2023	36	52
2024	39	
2025	42	

Year	Target	Performance
2021	+15% growth on 2020 income of £7,122,000	£8,192,000 (+15.02%)
2022	+15% growth on previous year's income	£8,790,000 (+7.3%)
2023	+15% growth on previous year's income	£10,232,000 (+16.4%)
2024	+15% growth on previous year's income	
2025	+15% growth on previous year's income	

Year	Target	Performance
2021	5%	1.5%
2022	5%	2.2%
2023	5%	2.4%
2024	5%	
2025	5%	

Impact in 2023

Buy an Acre

In early 2023, WLT established a new Buy an Acre project in South Africa's Renosterveld habitat. Through the funding of 150 ha (370 acres) through WLT's Buy an Acre programme, Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (ORCT) secured the landmark purchase of the 497-ha (1,228-acre) Plaatjieskraal farm after 16 years of negotiations.

With our partner Fundación Hábitat y Desarrollo (FH&D), work continued on extensions to the first privately protected reserve in Argentinian Patagonia's Somuncurá Plateau. In 2023, WLT secured a second property, adding a further 4,605 ha (11,397 acres) to the reserve.



Work continued in our other Buy an Acre projects...

In Kenya's Dakatcha Woodland, Buy an Acre funded 58 ha (143 acres) for Nature Kenya and 177 ha (437 acres) for A Rocha Kenya to support the preservation of one of the most threatened coastal forest remnants in Africa, 50% of which has been lost to agriculture.

WLT continued to raise funds in support of Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA) efforts to secure an additional 1,587 ha (3,921 acres) of priority land in Brazil's Atlantic Forest.

Fundraising also extended into 2023 for our partner Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina's (FBA) Chaco-Taguá biological corridor in Argentina's Córdoba Province.

Image credit: Left to right - Chris Hodgson, REGUA, FBA.

Plant a Tree

2023 saw the successful completion of the Genting Wildlife Corridor reforestation project where 45 ha (111 acres) of former oil palm plantation in Malaysian Borneo are now restored to forest habitat. In Armenia's Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) began the 5-year period of planting 700,000 trees across 300 ha (741 acres).

Work also continued on two other Plant a Tree projects; Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA) is planting native tree species in one of the last remnants of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, and, in India, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) prepared to establish the D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Corridor and restore degraded areas with 150,000 new trees.

73,900 trees planted with Plant a Tree in 2023



Impact in 2023

Action Fund

In 2023, WLT's Action Fund had great success in aiding the protection of threatened habitats and species. Fundação Kissama successfully installed 22.7 kilometres of firebreaks to ensure the long-term survival of Mount Moco's Afromontane Forest in Angola by preventing wildfires.

The Fund was also put to good use with £200,000 of urgent funding sent to the Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation (FUNDAECO) for the protection of coastal plots from development.

The Action Fund is available to support all partners and supplemented multiple projects where urgent action was needed. While primarily supported by our Plant a Tree programme, in Armenia, Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) explained "The Action Fund has provided essential additional support helping us to scale up reforestation efforts."



Keepers of the Wild

The Keepers of the Wild Programme is one of the ways in which WLT provides support to the 80 rangers working with 23 partners across 16 countries in 2023. Keepers of the Wild are locally employed and know the project site better than anyone, working on the frontlines of conservation to ensure the reserves are protected and maintained.

An example is our partner Fundación Patagonia Natural's (FPN) La Esperanza Wildlife Refuge in Patagonian Argentina, where two locally employed Keepers of the Wild rangers worked to patrol the refuge, monitor the 81 different species of animals, 5 species of shorebirds and 17 species of seabirds observed there.

Image credit: Andrea Ferreira.



Impact in 2023

Rangers supported by WLT across all projects in 2023



Carbon Balanced

Addressing the global climate situation with WLT's Carbon Balanced Manager Mary McEvoy



Climate change is an issue of global proportions, and its impacts are not limited to national or continental borders. I believe that each and every global citizen can be impactful in helping to tackle it. By truly fostering inclusion into plans and actions to mitigate climate change, we will create more fair and just outcomes for those at the forefront of its devastating impacts.

Today, I often hear widespread blame placed on a small number of rapidly developing countries in the global south for the predicament we find ourselves in. Whilst there are undoubtedly problems with national emissions in most countries, the expectation that developing countries should simply halt their development is hugely unfair. Not least because

this view conveniently ignores the fact that countries in the global north are responsible for 92% of today's climate breakdown. Alongside this is the tendency of the global north to impose solutions on the global south for the effects of past emissions and shift responsibility for preventing future emissions.

WLT believes that the people living on the frontiers of environmental breakdown are the most likely to know what solutions are best for their circumstances. Equally, local communities and indigenous people who have co-existed with natural ecosystems such as forests, savannah, and wetlands for millennia possess an unrivalled knowledge, understanding of and right to those ecosystems' conservation. WLT always

supports in-country conservation organisations, and their staff often originate from the very locations they're trying to protect. Our network of partners is closely involved with local stakeholders and helps to break down complicated protocols like REDD+ into understandable and realistic opportunities for local people. They in turn contribute to the design and delivery of projects.

In 2023, WLT partners working in all Carbon Balanced project areas actively involved local communities and indigenous people to elevate the impact and success of forest conservation whilst also contributing towards delivery of 12 UN Sustainable Development Goals. In Guatemala, FUNDAECO have improved access to basic health facilities including



establishing a new women's health clinic. Here, they have trained 308 people in sustainable livelihoods and provided scholarships for 40 girls to finalise their educations. In Ecuador, NCE continue to protect the Maycu Reserve, a vital source of water for the local Las Orquídeas community. This whilst also engaging with the Shuar Indigenous community of Mura Nunka to support the establishment of a new Indigenous protected area and to assist them in traditional 'agroecological' practices.

Over in Vietnam, WLT partner VNCC have continued engagement with nine villages local to Dong Chau - Khe Nuoc Trong Nature Reserve. Villagers have helped plant over 8,700

native trees around their properties to provide an alternative source of timber in the years to come and avoid future deforestation. Finally, in 2023, the two projects with partner GESG in Mexico contributed £250,000 to 28 individual landowners and five communal agricultural areas known as Ejidos to support the protection of highly biodiverse oak, coniferous and cloud forests. In Carbon Balanced projects, inclusion of all local stakeholders means conservation of forests provides meaningful positive impact on their lives.

The impacts of climate change have been felt so strongly throughout 2023 and the situation is more serious than ever before. So, I'm glad to see a recognition that a just transition to a decarbonised planet absolutely must be equitable for those that have caused the least impact yet bear the worst of the effects. A truly just transition will leave no one behind. Inclusion is not just about local communities as a single group,

but about the myriads of often marginalised people within them. Again, WLT partners are experts at engaging with all groups within communities regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion, wealth, livelihood or any other defining features.

Supporting projects that work at such grassroots levels gives WLT an insight into the staggering resourcefulness of local people at conserving the areas important to them and to the future of the planet. WLT's Carbon Balanced projects in Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico and Vietnam highlight this on a daily basis and will continue to achieve great things for global decarbonisation efforts.



The last home of the Lemurs

The Madagascar: A Forest for the Future spring appeal helped the Missouri Botanical Gardens Madagascar Programme (MBG-Madagascar) expand the precious Ankarabolava-Agnakatrika forest in the Vangaindrano District of Madagascar. The forest is home to over 50 threatened species of tropical plants, stunning birds, and Madagascar's famous lemurs — including the Critically Endangered White-collared Lemur.

Having reached our fundraising target of £586,250, the appeal allowed MBG-Madagascar to secure 200 ha of land around the forest and will fund the planting of 500,000 native trees between 2023 and 2028 to restore the degraded forest. MBG-Madagascar works closely with the local Antesaka people to preserve the Malagasy knowledge and cultural heritage that is so closely tied to the forest.



Helping Restore Armenia's Forests

Our Plant a Tree appeal supported our partner Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) in the restoration of 300 ha of degraded landscape in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge. By planting 700,000 trees from over 9 different native species, FPWC will create both long-term and seasonal employment with tree planting and tree nurseries.

Once restored, the area will improve water security of a region disproportionately affected by the climate crisis and provide food and shelter to around 44 different mammal species that live in the reforestation area. The region is also a biological crossing point on the migratory routes for many species including the Threatened Caucasian Leopard, of which there are fewer than a dozen remaining in Armenia.

Image credit: Top to bottom - Nature Picture Library, FPWC.



Colombia's Cloud Forest

2023's autumn appeal: Colombia's Forests of Mist supported Fundación Guanacas to protect one of the last remnants of cloud forest habitat at the Guanacas Reserve in Colombia's Antioquia Department.

The appeal will fund a 181-ha expansion of the reserve, and reforestation with 36,500 native trees. Only 10-20% of Colombia's cloud forests are still standing so, for the 665

species — including 15 species on the IUCN Red List — that rely on the misty, mountain cloud forest, the reserve is a vital lifeline for their vanishing habitat. As our eleventh Big Match Campaign, every donation made to Colombia's Forests of Mist during Big Match Fortnight (11-25 October) was matched to triple its gift value, raising 52% of the £1.15 million appeal in the first two weeks, with the remainder raised over the rest of 2023.

Image credit: Top to bottom - Andrea Ferreira, Alamy Stock Photo.



58 PROJECTS

funded in 25 countries around the world
Including brand new WLT-funded projects in

162,317 HA

of threatened habitats protected
Including four Buy an Acre projects

And 14 projects across 10 countries supported by the Action Fund

SINCE 1989, 2,547,982 HA

have been protected by WLT Partners, an area significantly larger than the size of Wales.

1,173,004 ha were directly funded by WLT, a further 1,374,978 ha have been co-funded.

12,757,495 ha have been connected by WLT-funded corridors; equivalent to the size of Bulgaria.



1,368 MORE SPECIES

recorded within WLT projects

80 RANGERS

working across 16 countries with 23 partners

417,351 TREES

planted across all WLT programmes

Across 10 countries including three Plant a Tree projects

500

in Malaysian Borneo

13,400

in Brazil

60,000

in Armenia

3,114,186 TREES

planted since 1989

133,151 tCO₂e IN CARBON CREDITS

contributed towards unavoidable emissions through the Carbon Balanced programme



A Year of Conservation Around the World

Here are just some of the achievements by WLT partners funded by our supporters in 2023

New bat species, the Lesser Yellow-shouldered Bat (*Sturnira boadai*) observed in NCEcuador's protected forests in Ecuador

Monitoring confirms AMPA's Bajo Huallaga Fragile Ecosystem in Peru as one of the most diverse areas for primates

Instituto Marcos Daniel completes 35.6-ha purchase of Cherry-throated Tanager habitat in Brazil

Puma and Orca sightings at FPN's La Esperanza Reserve in Argentina's coastal steppe

4,605 ha funded by Buy an Acre in Argentinian Patagonia with FH&D

ORCT secures 497-ha of globally rare renosterveld habitat in South Africa

Elephant footprints seen for the first time in A Rocha Kenya's Dakatcha Reserve

Planet Madagascar's rangers find more 125 Lemur groups during forests patrols in Ankarafantsika National Park

Environmental Defenders Uganda plant 15,000 tree seedlings on 100 acres of Nyamukino reserve in Uganda

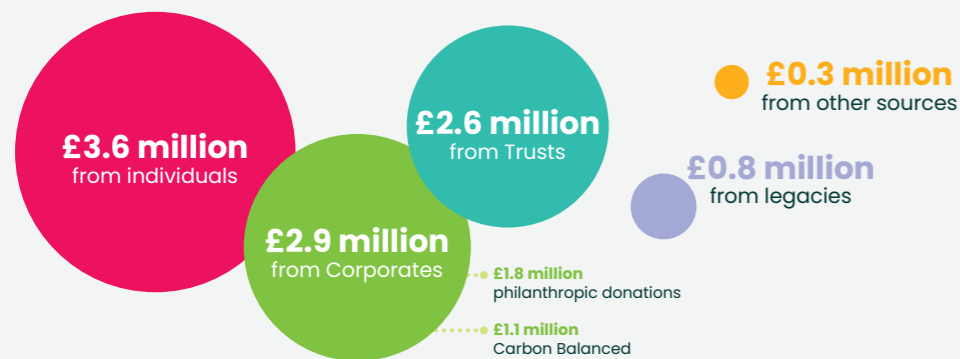
Snow Leopard Foundation begins livestock vaccination program to help prevent the spread of infectious disease to wildlife, and festival awareness campaign to protect Snow Leopards in Pakistan's Laspur Valley

Viet Nature Conservation Centre distributes nearly 8,300 seedlings of 5 native species distributed to over 100 households are part of community conservation scheme to restore Khe Nuoc Trong forests.

Genting Wildlife Corridor completed by HUTAN in Borneo

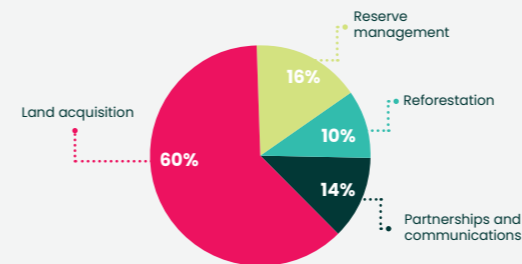
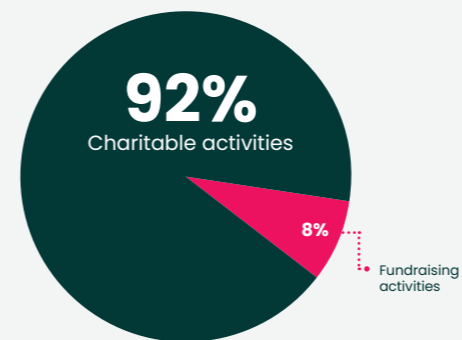
Income and Expenditure in 2023

Past, present and projected WLT income



Income of **£10.2 million** raised in 2023

£7.8 million spent by WLT in 2023

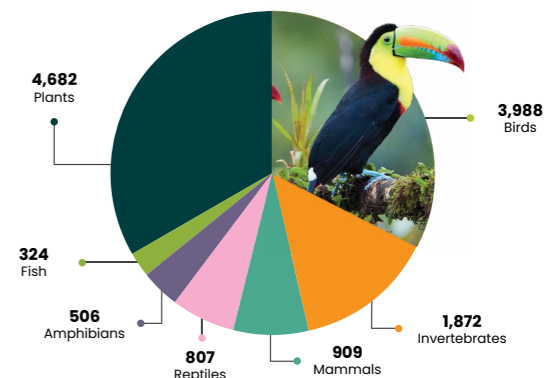


£7.2 million spent on charitable activities

Species and Habitats Protected by WLT since 1989

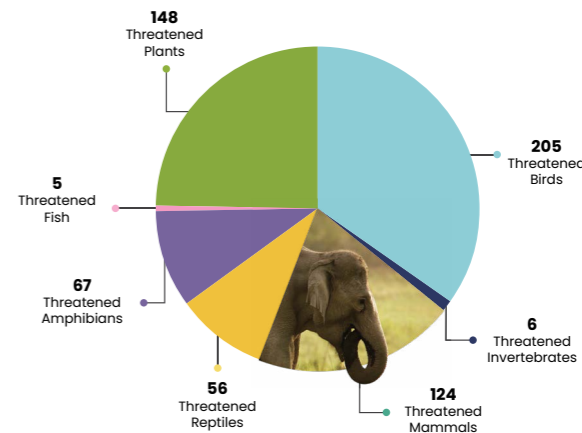
13,088

total known Species in WLT Project Areas



611

total known globally Threatened species in WLT project areas



Conservation partners

Africa

- A Rocha Kenya
- Big Life Limited
- Environment and Rural Development Foundation
- Environmental Defenders
- Fundação Kissama
- Kara-Tunga Foundation
- Kasanka Trust Ltd
- Missouri Botanical Garden - Madagascar Programme
- Nature Kenya
- Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust
- Planet Madagascar Association
- Southern Tanzania Elephant Program
- Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
- The Gorongosa Project
- The Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda
- Wild Tomorrow

Asia

- Applied Environmental Research Foundation
- Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets
- HUTAN
- Koshi Tappu Kangchenjunga Biodiversity Education Livelihood Terra-Studio
- Snow Leopard Trust
- Viet Nature Conservation Centre
- Wildlife Trust of India

Central America

- Asociación Ecológica de San Marcos de Ocotepeque
- Belize Maya Forest Trust
- Conservación de Anfibios A.C
- Corozal Sustainable Future Initiative
- Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la conservación
- Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda
- Naturaleza y Cultura Sierra Madre
- Programme for Belize

South America

- Asociación Amazónicas por la Amazonía
- Asociación Armonía
- Asociación Civil Provita
- Fundación Biodiversa Colombia
- Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina
- Fundación EcoMinga
- Fundación Guanacas bosques de niebla
- Fundación Hábitat & Desarrollo
- Fundación Jocotoco
- Fundación Natura Bolivia
- Fundación Patagonia Natural
- Fundación ProAves Colombia
- Fundación Proyecto Tití
- Guyra Paraguay
- Instituto Marcos Daniel
- Natura Argentina
- Naturaleza Tierra y Vida
- Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional Ecuador
- Naturaleza y Cultura Peru
- Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu
- Rewilding Argentina




In July 2023 our conservation partners gathered in Cambridge for our largest Partner Symposium yet. Held at University of Cambridge's Robinson College, the symposium was a wonderful chance to meet new people and reconnect with friends. The event, our first since the Guatemala Symposium held in 2020, was well attended by 46 of our conservation partners from across Central and South America, Africa, and Asia – double that of the previous meeting.

The incredible turnout of partners and friends, all coming together as conservationists to discuss crucial topics showed how much our network has grown. The sessions covered topics ranging from biodiversity monitoring techniques to pathways for long-term financial sustainability for organisations, with engrossing talks far outlasting the formal sessions. “There were over 1,000 years of combined conservation knowledge packed in our college conference room in Cambridge; a diversity of

experiences that is our strength” Dr Catherine Barnard, CEO.

Alongside WLT's operational partners including IUCN Netherlands, Nature and Culture International, and the University of Leeds, we were joined by many members of our community, from WLT Ambassadors Sarah Class and Nick Hollis to WLT Patron David Gower OBE.

A close-up photograph of a lush forest floor. The scene is dominated by large, bright green leaves with prominent veins, some showing signs of insect damage. Interspersed among these are several ferns with delicate, feathery fronds. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the textures and colors of the vegetation.

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Image credit: Andrea Ferreira