



**WORLD
LAND
TRUST**

Charity Number 1001291

Saving land
Saving species

Your impact as a Buy an Acre supporter

How your donations are saving
land and wildlife in Argentina, Brazil,
Kenya, and South Africa

Protecting the world's most threatened wildlife, acre by acre

Research shows that protecting and restoring land is among the most effective actions we can take for our planet.

Saving land and placing it in local hands has been the premise of World Land Trust's (WLT's) conservation work since our foundation in 1989, when our first project helped to bring permanent protection to 44,515 hectares (110,000 acres) of threatened tropical rainforest in Belize. This was the first instance of our Buy an Acre model in action, as effective today as it was back then.

By supporting our flagship programme, you're taking part in a global effort to give our most threatened ecosystems the protection they urgently require – but that's just the start. Purchasing land is the first crucial step in the conservation process. It enables our partners to create or extend protected areas, halting habitat destruction and degradation. WLT doesn't own or manage the land we help save. We rely instead on local experts – our conservation partners and the communities they work alongside – who are best placed to protect their own homelands.

Our partners negotiate the land purchases and coordinate with local communities to foster sustainable development and employment opportunities, ensuring their work on the ground brings benefits as broad as possible for all.

We are delighted to share with you the most recent updates from our Buy an Acre projects in 2023–2024. We hope each of these updates illustrates how land purchase can also pave the way for a whole host of other benefits. Together with our partners who are at the frontlines of nature conservation, we are profoundly grateful for all your support to protect the world's most threatened wildlife, habitats, and communities.



Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), Brazil

WLT partner: REGUA

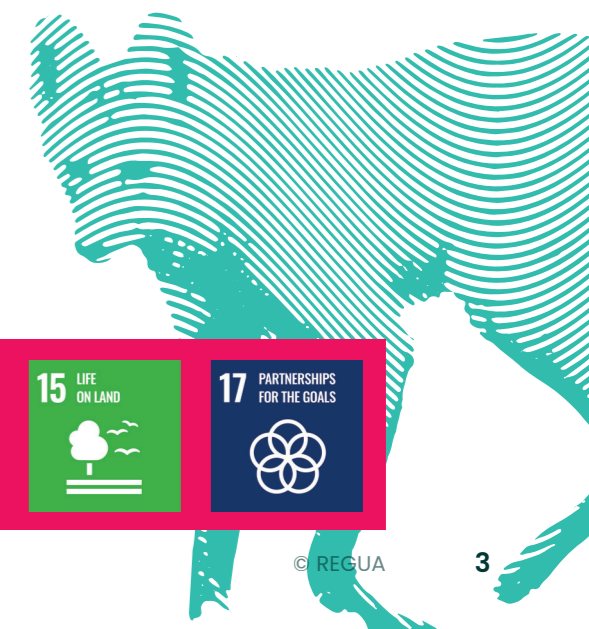
With just 7% of its original forest cover remaining, the Atlantic Forest is one of the world's most diverse forest regions with 44% of its plants and 30% of its birds found nowhere else. But its precious wildlife remains threatened by illegal deforestation, urbanisation, and poaching. Thanks to your support, our partner REGUA is working tirelessly to ensure that the Atlantic Forest – home of the Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) and Lowland Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) – is not lost.

More land protected

Since 2006, Buy an Acre supporters have contributed to REGUA's purchase of over 6,785 hectares (16,700 acres) of land within the threatened Guapiaçu Watershed. To build on these successes, REGUA is currently purchasing another property approximately 1,600 hectares in size. Once this acquisition is complete, the site will be incorporated into the main reserve, greatly enhancing connectivity and enabling Lowland Tapirs to be reintroduced to this region.

An unusual visitor

REGUA use camera traps to regularly monitor the reserve and in January 2024 received a very unusual visitor: the Maned Wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*). This wolf is South America's largest canid and is generally found in dry open grasslands rather than humid forest. REGUA suspects its appearance might be driven by fragmentation of its preferred habitat, pushing these elegant predators to travel further in search of prey and water.



This partnership with REGUA supports the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Chaco Taguá Biological Corridor, Argentina

WLT partner: **Fundación Biodiversidad Argentina (FBA)**

In Argentina's Córdoba Province, less than 5% of the region's Dry Chaco forests remain following years of logging, wildfires, and urbanisation. Thanks to your continued support, this Buy an Acre project is now fully funded, protecting these unique and precious forests – home to a staggering 3,400 plant species and 150 mammal species – for generations to come.

5,411 hectares (13,370 acres) saved from agricultural expansion

We are delighted to announce that FBA has completed the purchase of 5,411 hectares (13,370 acres) within Argentina's highly threatened Dry Chaco Forest region. This land greatly improves protection to the north of the Traslasierra National Park, a historically under-protected area at high risk from agricultural expansion.

By supporting our Buy an Acre programme, you have provided a lifeline for many of Argentina's most threatened species. These include the Endangered Chacoan Peccary (*Catagonus wagneri*), a boar-like mammal once thought extinct, and in the skies far above, the Chaco Eagle (*Buteogallus coronatus*), one of South America's largest and most formidable birds of prey.

Monitoring the region's wildlife

Supported by a PhD student from Córdoba National University, FBA have been busy carrying out ecological surveys and camera trap monitoring across their reserves. This has revealed promising results for the new site, with higher numbers of Chacoan Peccary than its two competitors: Feral Pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and the Collared Peccary (*Dicotyles tajacu*). In addition, FBA have begun tracking the region's Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) to work out their movement patterns and thus target areas for future protection.

Resolving human-wildlife conflict

Early in 2023, FBA participated in a meeting organised by the Traslasierra National Park, the Chancaní community, and other local stakeholders, to assess the impact of Puma (*Puma concolor*) predation on livestock. They are now working together to find ways to resolve this, thereby ensuring that wildlife conservation aligns with the needs of the local communities.



This partnership with FBA supported the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Somuncurá Plateau, Argentina

WLT partner: **Fundación Hábitat y Desarrollo (FH&D)**

The Somuncurá Plateau is an incredibly fragile and under-protected region home to highly threatened species found nowhere else on Earth. These include the Critically Endangered El Rincon Stream Frog (*Pleurodema somuncurense*) and Naked Characin (*Gymnocharacinus bergii*), both of which are only found in a single thermal-heated stream on the plateau: the Valcheta Stream. With your support, FH&D are making major headway safeguarding these precious micro-endemic species and reducing the threat of invasive species.

4,605 hectares (11,379 acres) purchased within the Somuncurá Plateau

In 2023, FH&D purchased a vast property covering 4,605 hectares (11,379 acres), a significant contribution to expanding protection of the Somuncurá Plateau. With this property purchased, they have already set to work on reserve management with signposting, fencing, and the eradication of non-native species.

Returning from the brink: the El Rincon Stream Frog and Naked Characin

We are delighted to report that FH&D's continued efforts to monitor and remove invasive Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Uruguay Tetra (*Cheirodon interruptus*) from the Valcheta Stream has yielded fantastic results. These include the recovery of the El Rincon Stream Frog and an increase in Naked Characin numbers.

This wonderful result has been made possible through the continued use of fish barriers on the Valcheta Stream. To build on their success, FH&D hired an engineer at the start of 2024 to further improve the fish barriers' design and to build two new ones.



Using livestock guardian dogs to build community rapport

In 2023, FH&D delivered two livestock guardian dogs to local farmers to reduce sheep predation by native predators like Puma (*Puma concolor*) and Andean Foxes (*Lycalopex culpaeus*). These dogs were delivered on the condition that the farmers agree to stop using traps or poison to kill native predators. This scheme has been very successful, resulting in a significant reduction in livestock predation and earning widespread support from the local community. What is more, camera trap footage shows that, following this intervention, populations of Puma and Andean Foxes are starting to bounce back.

In fact, the region's farmers – encouraged by the scheme's success – are now supplying their neighbours with livestock guardian dogs, after breeding and training.

Building the plateau's first Biological Station and reintroducing Andean Condors (*Vultur gryphus*)

Your support has also paved the way for two further exciting developments as secondary benefits from the Buy an Acre project. In 2023, FH&D established the region's first Biological Station, providing a fully equipped base for their team and volunteers. They also signed an agreement with Fundación Bioandina Argentina to reintroduce the threatened Andean Condor to the Somuncurá Plateau. This will help expand habitat for the world's largest – and frequently persecuted – bird of prey.

This partnership with FH&D supports the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Dakatcha Woodland, Kenya

WLT partners: A Rocha Kenya (ARK) and Nature Kenya

The Dakatcha Woodland in Kenya is among the last 10% of East Africa's coastal forests. Falling within a global biodiversity hotspot, it is one of the few remaining homes on Earth for the Endangered Sokoke Scops Owl (*Otus ireneae*) and the only known nesting site of the Endangered Clarke's Weaver (*Ploceus golandi*). Despite its global conservation importance, this forest receives no formal protection and is threatened by deforestation, illegal livestock grazing, and poaching. But thanks to your support, our partners A Rocha Kenya (ARK) and Nature Kenya are both making significant headway towards saving this precious forest.

795 hectares (1,966 acres) secured in the Dakatcha Woodland

Since the start of 2023, Buy an Acre funds helped ARK to successfully complete the purchase of 361 hectares (892 acres) of Dakatcha Woodland while Nature Kenya secured 117 hectares (288 acres). Protecting this land will increase the available habitat for many of the woodland's most threatened species, including the unusual Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew (*Rhynchocyon chrysopygus*).

Finding where the Sokoke Scops Owl goes to roost

In March 2024, ARK was determined to find the roosting site of the Sokoke Scops Owl. To this end, ARK's rangers patiently followed the calls of Sokoke Scops Owls all the way from 4am until dusk. Their dedication was rewarded with the discovery of the first Sokoke Scops Owl roosting site in the A Rocha Dakatcha Nature Reserve.

Spurred on by this success, ARK have since created a map of all their previous sightings of the Sokoke Scops Owl across the Dakatcha Woodland. This is a major step forward, allowing ARK to assess how well existing sites are protecting this unusual owl as well as identifying future areas for land purchase.

Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) visit the Dakatcha Woodland

In September 2023, ARK caught sight of some very special footprints within the Dakatcha Woodland. These were unmistakably an Elephant's footprints and, although large mammals like Elephants and African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) were common in this region 30 years ago, they are now increasingly rare. The sighting of these footprints is a very promising sign.



New rangers and new technology

In 2024, ARK hired three new rangers, bringing the total to 12, and started training them all to use the conservation software SMART: Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool. With this tool, the rangers can now record the exact location of any threats (charcoal kilns, deforestation, and illegal livestock grazing) enabling them to rapidly respond before issues escalate. It also increases opportunities for shared learning among the rangers, discussed in weekly feedback sessions.

Supporting local communities

Nature Kenya has been supporting the formal registration of Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) around the Dakatcha Woodland. This involves extensive consultations with local communities as well as supporting livelihood incentives to encourage conservation. In the last year for example, Nature Kenya provided 100 beehives to the local community together with beekeeper training.

Nature Kenya is also supporting local communities to respond to the increasing impacts of climate change, providing households with seeds for drought-tolerant crops. This follows broader farming advice, including helping farmers to identify and prevent livestock diseases.

Ecological surveys reveal potential new species

A botanical survey last year revealed an impressive 224 plant species on the A Rocha Dakatcha Nature Reserve. These include an Endangered euphorbia, *Euphorbia fluminis*, as well as an aloe species that may be new to science. The aloe is distinctive for having clear sap that changes colour on exposure to air, firstly to bright red and then purple and black.

The reserve may also be home to a new species of butterfly, identified during a survey by the African Butterfly Research Institute which found 139 different species.

Local support helps overcome human-wildlife conflict

In 2023, Kenya experienced a particularly harsh dry season which resulted in pastoralists from the northern counties arriving at Dakatcha Woodland with thousands of sheep and goats. Fortunately, their entry was prevented by the region's Area Chief who persuaded the pastoralists to cooperate with ARK's rangers. This serves as a fantastic example of the power and importance of local community support to enable effective conservation.

The partnership with Nature Kenya supports the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The partnership with ARK supports the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

13 CLIMATE ACTION	15 LIFE ON LAND	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
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Renosterveld, South Africa

WLT partner: Overberg Renosterveld Trust (ORT)

Located in South Africa's mega-diverse Cape Floristic Region, Renosterveld is one of the most diverse yet least well-protected plant communities on Earth. Despite being critically endangered, less than 2% of Renosterveld is formally conserved. Occurring on nutrient-rich soils, it is threatened by the expansion of the Overberg region's wheatbelt. Your support for this project is ensuring that this precious and wildlife-rich habitat is not lost.

500 hectares (1,236 acres) of Renosterveld protected

Following 16 years of detailed negotiations, we are delighted to report that the ORT have secured the protection of 500 hectares (1,236 acres) of Renosterveld within the Overberg region of South Africa, of which 150 hectares (371 acres) were purchased with Buy an Acre funding. Securing such a large area is a significant achievement, especially given that three quarters of the world's remaining Renosterveld patches are less than one hectare (2.5 acres) in size.

With this land purchased, the ORT is now able to safeguard many of South Africa's rarest and most precious plant species; several of which owe their very discovery to this remarkable site. These include a tiny pink iris, *Hesperantha kiaratayloriae*, which was first described in 2012 by the ORT. Since then, it has only been found on one other (unprotected) property, making it Critically Endangered. The new site will also protect locally rare animals like Aardwolf (*Proteles cristata*) and Aardvaark (*Orycteropus afer*) and flitting above the flowers, one of the veld's most dazzling residents, the Rainbow Cuckoo Wasp (*Chrysis mionii*).

This success was made possible through your generous support to our Buy an Acre programme and close collaboration between international conservation organisations, including the World

Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa, the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund, and US-based WildLandscapes International.

"This is a powerful collaboration of like-minded organisations from across the world. This is significant because it shows that Renosterveld is, at last, being recognised internationally." Dr Odette Curtis-Scott, Director of the ORT

Excitingly, the purchase of this Renosterveld site is the first of many more to come. The acquisition of another Renosterveld site – this one measuring 275 hectares (680 acres), of which WLT Buy an Acre funds are helping purchase 208 hectares (514 acres) – is currently in progress.

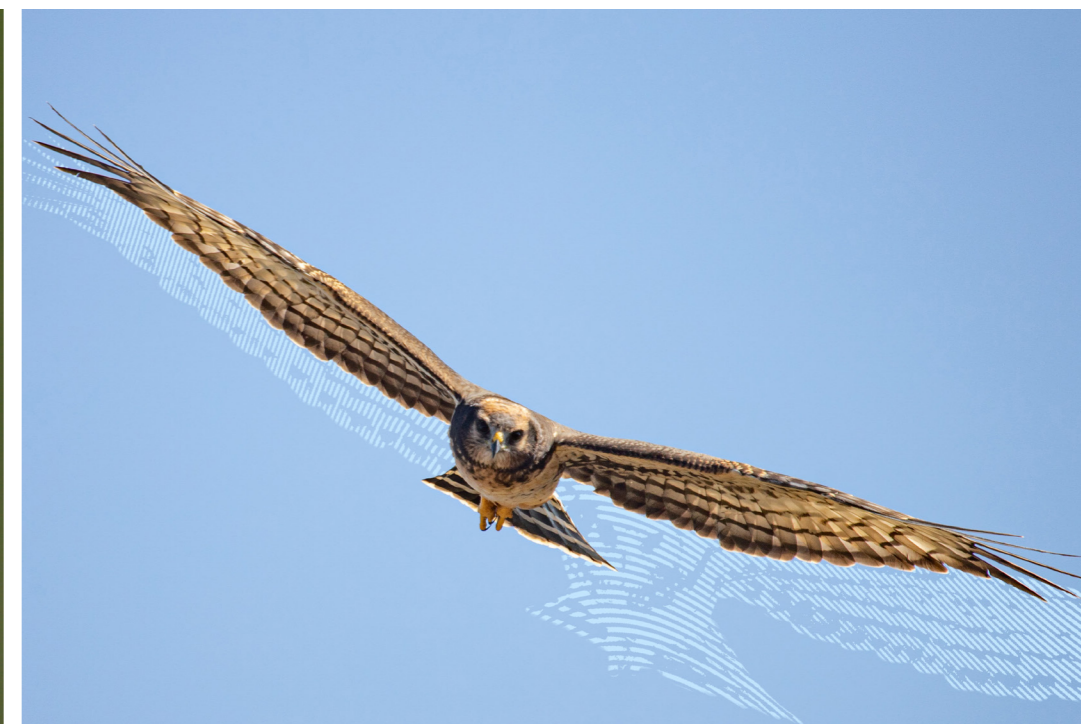
Creating an Integrated Management Plan for the new site

Since acquiring the new site, the ORT have applied for it to be registered as a Nature Reserve – a process which will take several months. In the meantime, they are adapting the Integrated Management Plan for their existing Haarwegskloof Renosterveld Reserve to incorporate this new site and have set to work removing invasive species.

Uncovering the secrets of the Black Harrier (*Circus maurus*)

Your Buy an Acre support has also laid the groundwork for several further developments carried out by ORT. Among these, the ORT to make considerable headway on their research into the Endangered Black Harrier. This enigmatic raptor has suffered substantial declines – and now numbers fewer than 1000 individuals – due to the disappearance of its Fynbos and Renosterveld habitats.

To support its recovery, the ORT are leading the development of a Species Action Plan and last year, GPS tagged 15 individuals to better understand its migration patterns.



This partnership with ORT supports the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):





Thank you!

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