



**WORLD
LAND
TRUST**

Charity Number 1001291

Saving land
Saving species

Your impact as a Plant a Tree supporter

How your donations are creating
thriving wildlife-rich forests in
Armenia, Brazil, Borneo, and India

A tree today, a forest tomorrow

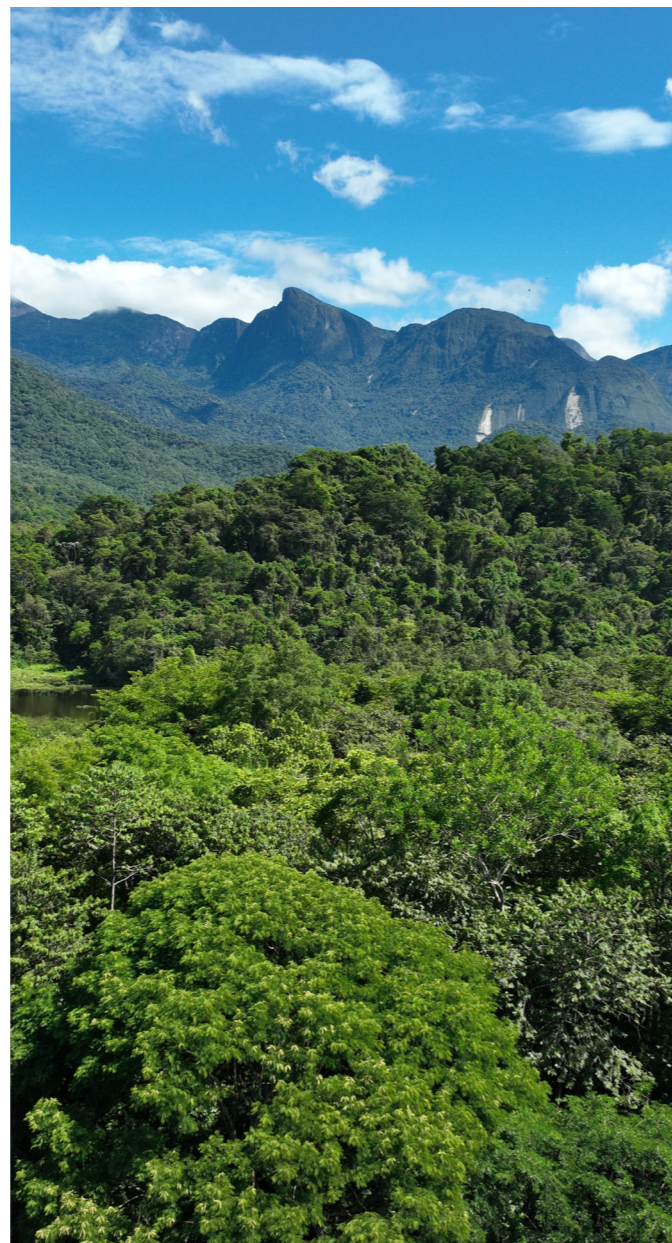
Trees are vital for life on Earth. They draw down carbon dioxide, purify our air, and safeguard our soils. The world's forests are home to an extraordinary diversity of wildlife and in the tropics, many species still remain unknown to science. As the climate and biodiversity crises worsen, restoring forests is now more important than ever.

By supporting our Plant a Tree programme, you are harnessing nature-based solutions in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. The UN declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, recognising the intricate relationship between ecosystem health and human wellbeing. Every donation you make to Plant a Tree is a decisive step to restoring the Earth's most wildlife-rich and threatened regions.

Since World Land Trust's (WLT's) Plant a Tree programme was launched in 2006, our supporters have helped plant over 650,000 trees, an important contribution towards our total of over 3 million trees since 1989. Much spotlight has been placed on the fact that tree planting cannot fight planetary crises alone and that we need to get it right. WLT's approach means you can be sure your Plant a Tree donations are making the necessary impact. Crucially, we see saving habitat as the first priority, with tree planting always taking place on land that our partners are already protecting. This combined focus – habitat protection followed by restoration – means the saplings you fund are the right species in the right places, recreating critical habitat corridors for threatened wildlife.

We are delighted to share with you the most recent updates from our Plant a Tree projects. Thousands of trees have been planted, restoring forests from the remote mountains of Armenia to the lush rainforests of Malaysian Borneo. These positive benefits extend far beyond wildlife. Each of these also provides a whole host of social benefits, providing local jobs, empowering women, and preserving critical water sources.

Together with our partners at the frontlines of nature conservation, we are profoundly grateful for all your support to restore thriving forests for people, wildlife, and the climate.



Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), Brazil

WLT partner: REGUA

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil may be less well known than its Amazonian counterpart, but its diversity is no less impressive. It is home to over 20,000 species of plant and 300 species of mammal, many of which – like the Thin-spined Porcupine (*Chaetomys subspinosus*) and Painted Tree Rat (*Callistomys pictus*) – are found nowhere else. But today, just 7% of its original forest cover remains, due to conversion for pasture. Now, with your support, REGUA are providing a new lease of life for one of the most threatened forest regions on Earth.

18 hectares (44 acres) planted and growing well

Last year in November, REGUA began restoring 18 hectares (44 acres) of land with 30,100 native tree species grown from locally harvested seeds. Initially, the survival of these newly planted trees hung in the balance as an especially severe El Niño drought hit in December, claiming 40% of the saplings. REGUA responded quickly, carrying out replanting as needed. The saplings are now thriving and persisted well through another drought, suggesting that the vulnerable stage has passed.

REGUA kicked off 2024 by preparing the ground of a new 12-hectare (30-acre) site for planting later this year.

Independent and thriving

REGUA carried out monitoring of their 2020 and 2021 plantings revealing that these are now well developed and forming a healthy young forest.

Creating a flourishing ecosystem

Since 2011, WLT's Plant a Tree programme has enabled REGUA to plant a total of 77,666 native trees of over 100 different species across their reserve, restoring 47 hectares (116 acres) of

land. This has expanded habitat for many threatened species, including the Southern Muriqui (*Brachyteles arachnoides*), a Critically Endangered species of spider monkey that depends on the forest for its survival. The habitat restoration also strengthens soils, draws down carbon, and provides job opportunities for local people.

In addition, the restoration of the Guapiaçu Watershed has benefited many wetland species including the aptly named Brazilian Snake-necked Turtle (*Hydromedusa maximiliani*).



"Planting seedlings to form forests rejuvenates ecosystems, replenishes aquifers, and gently coaxes water springs back to life – all of which are essential for supporting wildlife and people. Our forests are the greatest treasure we can offer the next generation." **Nicholas Locke, REGUA President**



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



Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, Armenia

WLT partner: Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

Located in the remote Vayots-Dzor Province of Armenia, the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge is one of the most wildlife-rich temperate forest regions on Earth. Despite its global conservation importance, decades of illegal logging and overgrazing have left this mountain landscape severely degraded. But now, thanks to your support, FPWC is bringing these barren hillsides back to life, providing a protected habitat corridor for highly threatened species like the Endangered Caucasian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) and Syrian Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos syriacus*).

60,000 trees planted with the local community

Last year, FPWC and 80 community members planted 60,000 native fruit-bearing trees, including Wild Almond (*Prunus fasciculata*), Willow-leaved Pear (*Pyrus salicifolia*), and Persian Juniper (*Juniperus excelsa polycarpus*).

Following this success, FPWC are now busy gearing up to plant 100,000 trees this autumn and winter, a significant stride towards their overall goal of 700,000 trees by 2027.

Building new nurseries to grow new forests

To meet their ambitious tree planting targets, FPWC have built five new nurseries: one at their existing site in the picturesque village of Urtsadzor and four at Ushi, a new site. With an eye for continual improvement, they have also redesigned the tree support trays to accommodate more seedlings and make better use of the nursery space.

Stopping plant diseases in their tracks

By taking a proactive approach, FPWC have managed to catch any plant diseases early, ensuring that the developing saplings are healthy and get the best possible start in life.



Last year, unusually high levels of humidity between April and June posed the risk of powdery mildew outbreaks. FPWC is keeping this at bay by intensively pruning any excess branches and leaves, which is also minimising the impact of spider mite.

Growing the team

In 2024, three more nursery assistants joined to take care of the new nursery site at Urtsadzor. To help with nursery oversight as the project grows, FPWC have also employed an additional tree nursery coordinator to support with daily coordination and monitoring.

FPWC joins the Forest Alliance

FPWC has joined the Forest Alliance – a coalition of local organisations focused on reforestation. These include the Armenia Tree Project, My Forest Armenia and Shen NGO. This alliance provides a fantastic platform for shared learning and promoting reforestation across Armenia's degraded landscapes.

SMS campaign on Earth Day

Each year, FPWC organizes an Earth Day SMS campaign with local telecommunication companies to get the word out about what they are doing and how people can help. This is one of many ways – including film screenings and talks in schools – that FPWC brings their work to new audiences across Armenia.

Adapting and evolving

FPWC are continuously finding ways to make their processes more efficient and effective, all the way from seed collection and germination to planting. For example, last year, germination of Oriental Hawthorn (*Crataegus orientalis*) proved challenging, so in response, FPWC extended the seed germination window from six to nine months and used cuttings. Since neither of these methods have yet worked well, FPWC will now experiment with a 12-month germination window.

This willingness to experiment with new ideas enables FPWC to respond flexibly to unexpected challenges. In addition, they regularly make use of expert knowledge with an agronomist visiting the tree nurseries each week to give further guidance.

Similarly, FPWC are now using a slow-release fertiliser with a longer diffusion period (around eight months) to account for the faster diffusion caused by Armenia's increasingly hot summer temperatures.

Developing a monitoring plan

FPWC are developing a comprehensive monitoring plan to collect data from all planting sites twice a year. They are also organising site visits to identify future areas for planting, as well as seed collection for Caucasian Oak (*Quercus macranthera*) and other species.

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



Genting Wildlife Corridor, Borneo

WLT partners: HUTAN

The Kinabatangan Floodplain in Malaysian Borneo is one of the most wildlife-rich regions on Earth, home to the Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus morio*) and Endangered Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*). Since 2019, HUTAN have been reforesting a former Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) plantation, establishing a vital habitat corridor along the banks of the Kinabatangan River.

Genting Wildlife Corridor completed

We are delighted to announce that HUTAN have completed reforestation of the Genting Wildlife Corridor. This could not have been achieved without your unwavering support to our Plant a Tree programme together with generous co-funding. Since 2019, a total of 71,091 trees of 29 native species have been planted on this 44-hectare (110-acre) site. These trees were planted and cared for by HUTAN's forest restoration team which is composed entirely of women. Your Plant a Tree donations have, with other funding streams, supported the employment of these women since 2019. Their dedication has paid off, providing wildlife with a safe route through the forest for generations to come.

Final 500 trees planted

To wrap up this major project, Plant a Tree funding enabled the final planting of 500 trees last year. These included marcots (a specific type of cutting) of Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*) supplied by the local organisation Palm Oil and NGO (PONGO) Alliance. This fig is particularly favoured by Bornean Orangutans.

Sapling care

HUTAN carry out regular management to ensure the saplings grow as healthily as possible. This includes weeding and watering during drought periods.

This year, HUTAN have continued checking the saplings' health and growth and will do so for several more years, slowly decreasing the number of check-ups as the trees become more established. To improve their future planting efforts, they are also currently gathering data on the saplings' survival rates across the whole site.



D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Elephant Corridor, India

WLT partner: Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)

The northern Indian states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh are one of India's most important landscapes for the conservation of the Endangered Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*). But this landscape is highly fragmented owing to deforestation and forest degradation for livestock grazing, settlements and fuel wood collection. That is why our partner WTI has been reconnecting this landscape. By planting trees, they are rebuilding crucial habitat bridges like the D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Elephant Corridor that lies between the D'ering Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in Assam. With your support, an array of wildlife – including Asian Elephants, Tigers (*Panthera tigris*), and Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) – will once again be able to roam through these forests.

110,082 trees planted

WTI have made major headway towards restoring the D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Corridor. The 150-hectare (371-acre) site is now home to an incredible 110,082 trees, with most saplings over

1.8 m tall and some 4.5 m in height. With these saplings in the ground, they are well on track to completing their target of restoring 200 hectares (494 acres) with 150,000 trees.

This success follows sustained hard work by WTI and volunteers from the local community. Last year, 14 kg of seeds from nine native tree species – including the Ceylon Olive (*Elaeocarpus serratus*) and a thorny tree *Senegalia catechu* – were collected for the tree nursery. Meanwhile, in 2024, WTI planted 18,432 saplings to revive the flood affected areas at the Namsing and Paglam restoration sites. Once established, these will help reduce flooding caused by increasingly severe monsoon rains.

Site management

WTI carry out regular detailed surveys of the restored sites and weeding of Billygoat Weed (*Ageratum conyzoides*) and Bitter Vine (*Mikania micrantha*). The local community is a key part of these efforts and also helps to protect the saplings from grazing damage by cattle.

The partnership with HUTAN supported the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):





Football, street plays, and walkathons

Although the following activities are not directly funded by Plant a Tree, they give an insight into the breadth of WTI's work to raise awareness about the D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Elephant Corridor.

To kick off the 2024 Solung Festival – one of the most important cultural festivals for the Indigenous Adi community of Arunachal Pradesh, WTI organised the Elephant Cup Football Tournament. Over 700 enthusiastic spectators turned out to watch this tournament that fuses a love for football and wildlife conservation.

Meanwhile, on World Elephant Day, the streets of Sadiya in Assam became the stage for a street play about human-elephant conflict. In the play, a little boy returns home having seen his family's crops destroyed by Asian Elephants. The village then joins together to find ways to resolve this conflict and promote co-existence.

These are just a few of WTI's many outreach events, with others including volleyball during the Ali-Aye-Ligang festival, mural painting at a local school, and a World Environment Day walkathon.

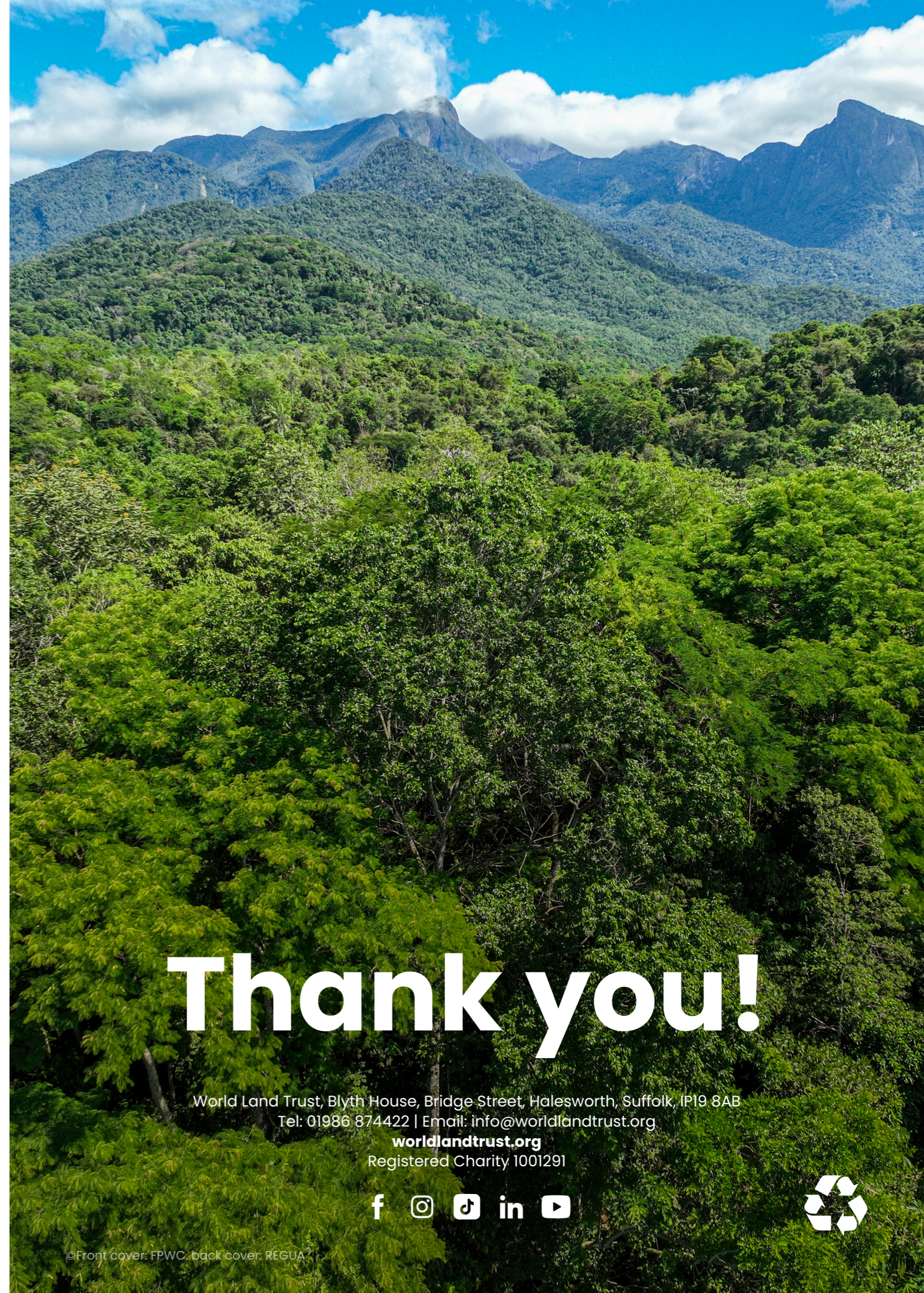
Supporting women weavers

Your Plant a Tree support also unlocks many other opportunities and secondary benefits for our partners. For example, WTI have been working with local communities to create sustainable livelihoods that minimise reliance on forest products. This has included supporting women to turn handloom weaving into a reliable source of income, by making and selling traditional clothing like shawls, sarongs, and scarves.

WTI delivered 250 kg of yarn to over 100 women weavers from two villages in Arunachal Pradesh. They also organised a 15-day course in motif design, which was attended by over 70 women. Working with WTI, the women designed an Indian Elephant motif that will feature on upcoming items sold in the area around the D'ering-Dibru Saikhowa Elephant Corridor.

Best of all, the idea of developing handloom weaving into a sustainable income emerged from the women themselves. This highlights the importance of working closely with local communities to find conservation solutions that resonate with them, their skills, knowledge, and cultural heritage.

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



Thank you!

World Land Trust, Blyth House, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8AB
Tel: 01986 874422 | Email: info@worldlandtrust.org

worldlandtrust.org
Registered Charity 1001291

