

## Saving wilderness, saving wildlife



The Tucumán Amazon Parrot (*Amazona tucumana*), classed as Vulnerable by Birdlife International, is declining in numbers at an alarming rate due to loss of habitat and collection for the pet trade. They are found only in Yungas of Northern Argentina, in the provinces of Tucumán, Salta and Jujuy; there is also small populations in south east Bolivia. So far they have not been recorded at El Pantanoso but as this is prime habitat WLT's partners are hopeful that they will be present.

### How you can help - Buy an Acre today [Buy an Acre](#)

For just £100 an acre (£50 for half an acre or £25 for a quarter of an acre) you can help us save El Pantanoso and protect all the rare and exquisite wildlife that is found there.

Buy an acre, either for yourself or as a gift, and receive a personalised certificate recording your support and the latest news on WLT's conservation work. You can choose whether to receive printed newsletters (three times a year) and/or WLT's eBulletin (sent electronically every calendar month).

**Your generous support can help save these crucial habitats and secure the long-term survival of their wildlife.**



“ The money that is given to the World Land Trust, in my estimation, has more effect on the wild world than almost anything I can think of. The WLT's policy of buying and protecting land is the most direct and certain road to conservation. ”

Sir David Attenborough, OM CH FRS. Patron, World Land Trust

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By using Carbon Balanced Paper through the World Land Trust publications in 2014 we have saved 2566 kgs of Carbon and preserved 216 sqm of critically threatened tropical forest.

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## Project Brief: Argentina El Pantanoso Reserve

**Saving habitats  
Saving species**  
[www.worldlandtrust.org](http://www.worldlandtrust.org)

## Saving Yungas forest Jujuy province, Argentina

Buy an Acre



The Yungas is a stretch of forest running in a narrow band along the eastern slopes of the Andes in Peru, Bolivia and northern Argentina.

The Yungas encompasses an area of around 55,000 square km in Peru, Bolivia and northern Argentina. In Argentina, the Yungas occupies a narrow fringe along the Andean eastern slopes in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Tucuman and Catamarca. There is an altitudinal diversity supporting a wide diversity of flora and fauna.

'Yungas' means rainy, humid and warm in the local language, and in the area that World Land Trust (WLT) is working there is a mosaic of different habitats within three different ecoregions: jungle foothills, montane forest and cloud forest.

### The Threats

In Argentina, more than 90 per cent of the Yungas foothills have been cleared for agriculture and all land outside the protected area network is generally subjected to intense logging. While some of the logging does not always lead to complete forest clearance, it does significantly alter forest composition, exacerbate habitat fragmentation and open up access to hunters and illegal loggers. The spread of soya bean cultivation also threatens this region. In addition, oil exploration is a concern as the whole Yungas region is situated in an oil basin which is driving the construction of roads and precipitating unregulated access.

### Land acquisition strategy

WLT, working with its Argentinian partner, Fundación Biodiversidad, Argentina, has identified areas of Yungas in urgent need of protection, and the first challenge is to save a priority area called El Pantanos.

This purchase will secure an ecological corridor between Calilegua National Park in the south and Estancia Urundel - a large tract of contiguous forest which is managed for sustainable timber extraction - in the north.

The Yungas ecoregion harbours the largest area of contiguous habitat for Jaguar in the country and, due to the presence of river valleys which dictate the flow of the Morado and Pantanos rivers, El Pantanos has been identified as an important ecological corridor for the movement of Jaguar, Puma, Ocelot and other threatened species, including tapir and two species of peccary. The biological distinctiveness of this ecoregion warrants its status as *Regionally Outstanding and Vulnerable* and is a conservation priority in Argentina.

The programme also seeks to establish a partnership with Calilegua National Park to secure ranger patrols.

## El Pantanos in context

The El Pantanos project area is marked with a red square in northern Argentina. This Buy an Acre protect protects important Yungas forest and will secure an ecological corridor to the nearby Calilegua National Park.

The other red squares show WLT's two additional programme areas: The **Emerald Green Corridor** in Misiones Province protects one of the last strongholds of largely undisturbed sub-tropical rainforest known as Selva Paranaense, and is part of the Atlantic forest *Mata Atlantica*.

In Patagonia, WLT is protecting the coastal steppe habitat of **Estancia la Esperanza**, in the buffer zone of the famous Peninsula Valdes. Patagonia's coastline is full of marine life including Southern Right Whales and Killer Whales while the steppe is a refuge for Guanaco, Puma, Mara (Patagonian Hare) and Burrowing Owls.

### A safe haven for wildlife

Biodiversity studies in the area have identified 120 species of mammal, 140 species of butterfly and more than 120 species of tree. Bird species number at least 350, which is half of all bird species recorded in Argentina. Amphibians and reptiles are yet to be surveyed but they are numerous, and a rare marsupial frog is known to occur in the locality.

### News of wild cats in El Pantanos

El Pantanos Reserve will protect an astonishing array of wildlife and some funding from WLT's Big Cat Appeal is being directed here, to create a safe haven for wild cat species. Trail cameras have recorded Jaguar 20 times, Puma 11 times, Jaguarundi six times, Margay nine times as well as Ocelot (below). Pampas Cat occurs here and tapirs have been recorded 59 times; in all 814 photographs of wildlife have been collected by trail cameras.

This Ocelot was captured by a trail camera in the reserve; Ocelots have been recorded on 13 separate occasions. Listed as Vulnerable to extinction in Argentina on the IUCN Red List, the ocelot has been a target for the fur trade which dramatically reduced its numbers. Although now illegal, some hunting continues. Major threats also come from habitat loss and fragmentation, and retaliatory killing due to attacks on poultry.

