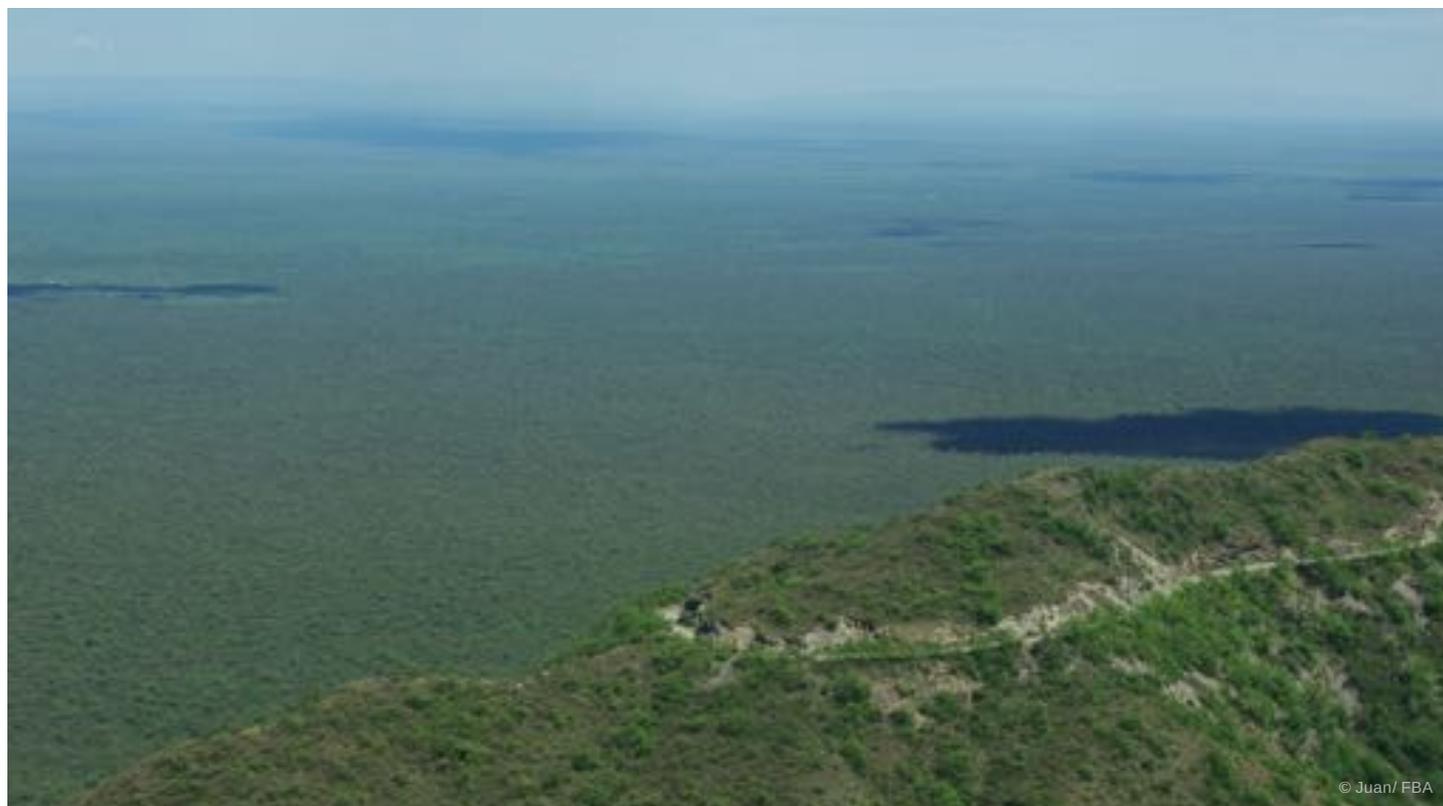




WORLD
LAND
TRUST

Chaco Taguá Biological Corridor Argentina



Country: Argentina

**Partner/Organisation:
Fundacion Biodiversidad
Argentina (FBA)**

Biome

Tropical & Subtropical Grasslands,
Savannas & Shrublands

Ecoregion

Dry Chaco

Habitats

Predominantly xerophytic forest (secondary) with further woodland and shrubland areas. The project is mostly on flat plains of around 250 metres above sea level, but rises sharply to the east in the Sierras de Guasapampa and Pocho ranges rising to an elevation of 1000 metres.

Project Summary

The Chaqueña ecoregion represents the second largest forest area in South America, with 60% of this ecoregion occurring in Argentina. Within Córdoba Province less than 5% of native forests remain and Fundacion Biodiversidad Argentina (FBA) aims to create a biodiversity corridor called the “Chaco Taguá Biological Corridor” which will protect large areas of the Chaqueña ecoregion. This corridor will connect two protected areas within Cordoba: to the north the recently created National Park “Traslasierra” of 105,000 hectares (260,000 acres) and to the south the Natural Park and Provincial Natural Forest Reserve “Chancaní” of 4,920 hectares (12,150 acres), as well as connecting areas to the north of Traslasierra to the surrounding landscape. The project has two objectives; one connecting these two parks through the land purchase of three private properties with a total area of 7,474 hectares, and two, strengthening the northern sector of the corridor with the acquisition of two further properties (of 9,566 hectares) to the north of Traslasierra National Park. WLT support will focus on fundraising towards securing an estimated 5,316 hectares of the total project area.

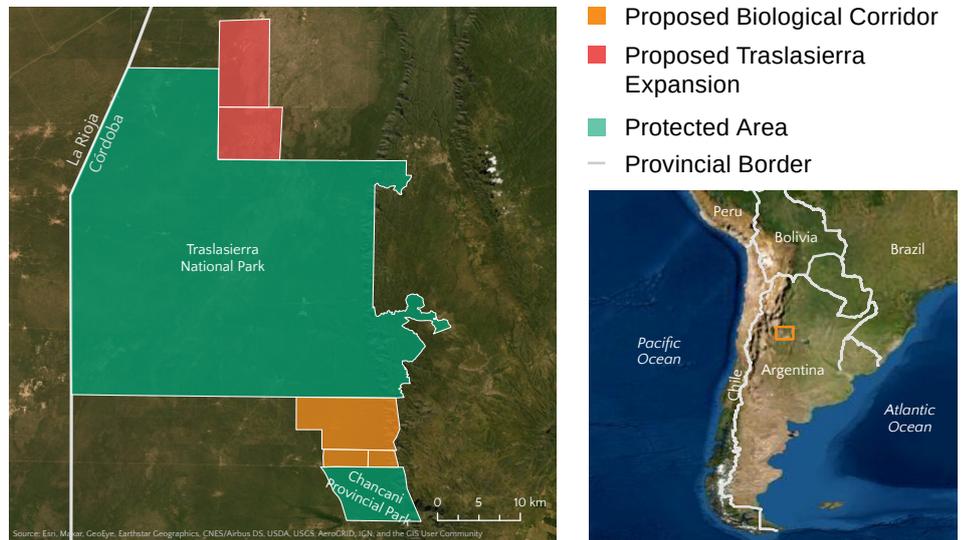
Main Threats to the Area

Forest overexploitation, unplanned urbanization progress, intentional fires, indiscriminate logging for timber and charcoal production, and poaching. Further loss of biodiversity because of these pressures is likely to lead to a reduction in forest quality and resources and a further reduction in quality and sustainability of people's lives in this region. Around 75% of the area is under Argentina's Red Forestry Law category, which only allows minimal activities and no forest clearance. Unfortunately, the enforcement of this law is often ineffective and land in the project area in 'Red' and 'Yellow' protection categories has been cleared in spite of their legal classification.

Global Prioritization

Neighbours the Chancaní y Sierras de Pocho Important Bird Area (IBA).

Map of the proposed purchases



Chaco Guanaco

Key Species¹

Chacoan Peccary (*Catagonus wagneri*, EN); Chaco Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*, LC); Crowned Eagle (*Buteogallus coronatus*, EN); Yellow Cardinal (*Gbiertrix cristata*, EN); Chalchalero Viscacha Rat (*Salinoctomys loschalchalerosorum*, CR), Berg's Tuco-tuco (*Ctenomys bergi*, VU).

Biodiversity

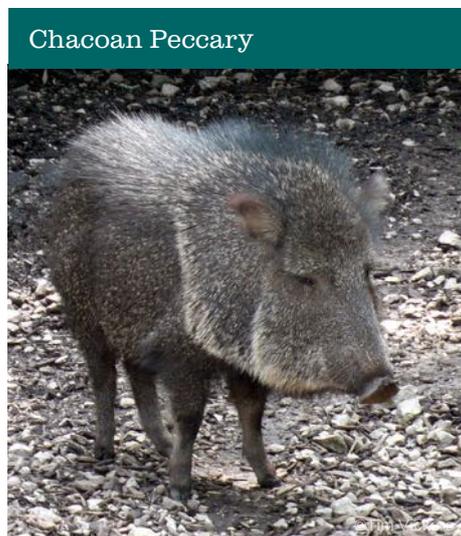
The project will protect the southernmost and possibly genetically isolated population of the globally endangered Chaco Peccary and the only known population of Chaco Guanaco in Argentina. Studies in Traslasierra National Park have recorded 229 species of birds, 35 species of mammals, and 43 species of amphibians and reptiles. Mammals include two endemic rodent species for Argentina, the Viscacha Viscacha rat and Berg's Tuco-tuco.

Local Communities

The properties of the Tegua Biological Corridor are large farming estates (estancias) owned by private landowners. There are no villages within the planned corridor. Surrounding the corridor there are around 23 communities of various size, from a few families to several thousand inhabitants. The region is one of the poorest in Argentina and productive activities are mainly marginal, subsistence level livestock (goat) rearing. Secondary activities include agriculture, collecting firewood, collecting and using medicinal and aromatic plants, and natural dyes. The project will protect the forest on which these communities depend, and FBA will work to ensure communities are able to continue to sustainably use and benefit from the corridor.

Partner/NGO

Fundacion Biodiversidad Argentina (FBA) is an NGO founded in 1999 and dedicated to nature conservation. They have worked with WLT since 2012 and we have collaborated on projects in Misiones (Emerald Green Corridor) and Jujui (El Pantanos). FBA's projects outside of WLT's support include developing management plans for threatened species such as the Yellow Anaconda, regulating the trade and promoting sustainable use of the hardwood species *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, and the use of wool from Llama, Alpaca, Guanaco and Vicuña through their Camelid Programme.



Chacoan Peccary

¹ International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened species includes categories of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC)