



Your impact as a **Carbon Balanced** supporter in 2022

Nature-based solutions to the climate crisis, funded by you
With a preview of our upcoming project in Zambia



Mobilising real change at a pivotal time for the planet

This past year Carbon Balanced supporters have delivered more than ever for climate, conservation and communities

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As a corporate supporter of World Land Trust's Carbon Balanced programme, you are part of a growing community of businesses driving the transformative climate action that the world needs right now. You've seen the effects of manmade climate change and are taking steps to address the environmental impact of your business activities: measuring your carbon footprint, reducing your emissions as much as possible, and only then offsetting your unavoidable residual emissions.

With the UN reporting that 2014–2021 were the eight hottest years to date, your proactive business measures are being undertaken at a truly critical juncture in the global effort to combat climate change. As the climate warms, you're fighting back by operating an increasingly sustainable business. Made up of businesses large and small, together our Carbon Balanced community is taking steps towards lessening its environmental impact, through measures that include switching to renewable energy, improving recycling and waste management, responsibly sourcing materials, and becoming signatories to industry sustainability charters.

As you continue to develop the sustainability strategies that contribute to a lower-carbon economy, we're delighted to support your journey by offering high-quality REDD+ carbon sequestration projects that directly advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As you'll read in this report, your support this year has funded three new water tanks in Mexico, the removal of 2,000 traps and snares in Vietnam, the planting of 7,100 trees in Ecuador, and much more.

A KEY PART OF A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

For many years, major economies and historical emitters have often failed to back up their environmental pledges with the necessary actions; but with every new WLT supporter we see who is taking responsibility for their environmental impact, our optimism for the future grows, fuelled by what is being achieved by our Carbon Balanced community.

In 2021, Carbon Balanced supporters collectively offset 82,966 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). This year has already seen a 48% increase on this figure – due in part to the 20 new businesses that have joined the programme in this time – with 122,950 tCO₂e offset as of October 2022. Reflecting the growth of the Carbon Balanced community, this is a sure sign of progress, an indication that climate action is now increasingly regarded as an essential part of running a business. In the years to come, progress will also be measured by a *decrease* in the tCO₂e offset through the Carbon Balanced programme, as we transition to a less carbon-intensive society. Your offsetting is an integral part of this transition, and we're incredibly grateful for your continued support.

You've already demonstrated how emission measurements and reductions can minimise the need for offsetting, and we expect this need to shrink further and further across the globe as time goes on. What we will always have a need for is the protection of standing forests – among the world's greatest carbon sinks – which should be prioritised now and forever.

Over the past year we've welcomed new supporters and seen existing ones strengthen their commitments, including some who have been with us since the Carbon Balanced programme was established in 2005. There has never been a greater desire from global citizens to make a difference for the planet, and as a Carbon Balanced supporter, you're setting the example that we hope many more will follow as this worldwide movement grows.

MUCH MORE THAN OFFSETS

We've put together this new report to celebrate the considerable impact you've made over the past year, not just for the climate but for conservation and communities as well. By supporting WLT's self-certified projects, you've allowed for a greater proportion of funds to go directly to project implementation

on the ground, delivering tangible benefits to people and wildlife.

Thanks to you, action is now being taken against illegal mining in Ecuador's Nangaritza Valley, where WLT partner NCE are also assisting the indigenous Shuar Federation to strengthen their local associations and create community reserves. The Xilitla project in Mexico's Sierra Gorda mountains disburses payments to the residents of four Ejidos, areas of communally held village land that are also home to Puma and Jaguar. In Vietnam, the Khe Nuoc Trong project has produced positive news for a Critically Endangered primate and villagers engaged in sustainable forestry.

We've also included a first look at our upcoming Carbon Balanced project in Zambia, which promises to deliver the natural climate solutions led by African communities that were highlighted at COP27 in Egypt.

For a general overview of our Carbon Balanced projects, visit the Carbon Balanced section on the WLT website to access detailed project briefs and a programme brochure. WLT also offers carbon credits verified by VERRA, to VCS and CCB standards through our Conservation Coast project in Guatemala.

Nangaritza, Ecuador

WLT partner: Naturaleza y Cultura Ecuador (NCE)

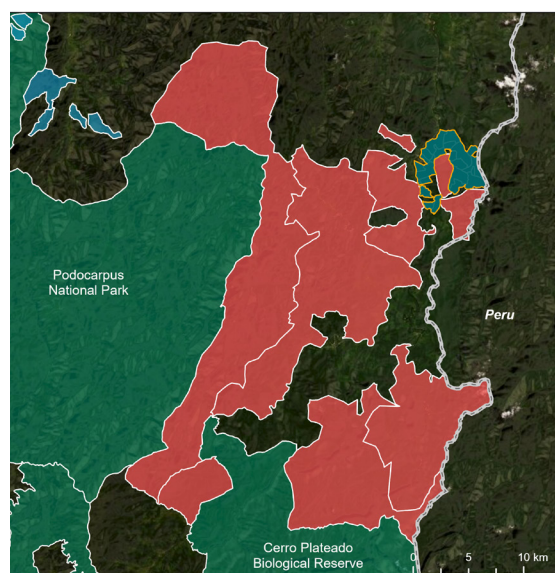
Expected annual climate benefit: 13,220 tCO₂e

This year, NCE has been assisting the indigenous Shuar people to bring their territories into Ecuador's national protected area system, SNAP, which will offer protection against future mining concessions and support sustainable land use. Efforts are also underway to establish an indigenous parish, a form of local government which would give the Shuar the capacity to create their own community conservation areas.

Further positive developments have come from NCE's partnership with ATASMO, a local association of autonomous workers. Together they have begun to lay the groundwork for community-based ecotourism in ATASMO reserves in the Nangaritza Valley. The plans, which will offer an alternative to mining, are soon to be put before local communities.

Despite this, beginning in August 2021, illegal mining activities in the southwest corner of the Maycú Reserve have damaged 6-10 ha of forest and polluted the Nangaritza River. NCE continue to work with authorities to highlight and report instances of Illegal mining in the reserve, monitoring remotely via satellite imagery and on the ground through reserve ranger Joel Velez, whose work is supported by your funds. The continued presence of these threats – and NCE's defence against them – demonstrates why your support is so vital.

Finally, an ongoing collaboration with a number of universities and institutions is helping NCE to better evaluate Nangaritza's carbon stock. This will allow NCE to monitor how much carbon is already stored in the forests here, as well as how effective their reforestation plots are at sequestering more as the plants within them grow.



YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Two properties purchased in the past year have increased the size of the Maycú Reserve by **104 ha**
- Between 2016 and 2021, the management of **52,000 saplings** helped to restore **41.8 ha** in the reserve
- 7,100** native trees grown in the Maycú nursery were planted between May and Q3 this year
- 100 bird species** were recorded here on May 14 during the Global Big Day birding event
- This significant haul saw Maycú rank in the **top 1%** of all birding sites in Ecuador
- Species spotted include **Orange-throated Tanager** and **White-necked Parakeet** (both Vulnerable) and **Royal Sunangel** (Endangered)

Xilitla, Mexico

WLT partner: Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda (GESG)

Expected annual climate benefit (average): 23,900 tCO₂e

GESG staff have visited the four Ejidos of Xilitla throughout the year, joining community members for field trips to assess habitats and place camera traps. Our partner has also visited Ejido Soledad de Zaragoza and Ejido La Trinidad as part of a training workshop for the management of their cabins.

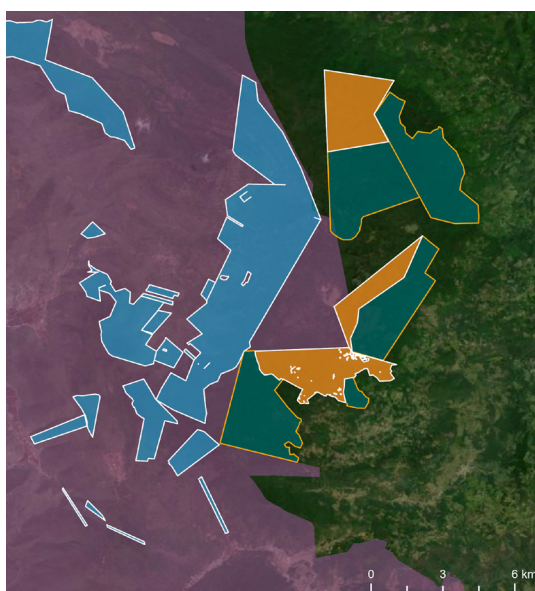
GESG has found “excellent reception for the project and interest in forest conservation” in every Ejido. This has been maintained even with new members of the project, including a new commissioner at Ejido Soledad de Zaragoza and a new member of the Board of Directors at Ejido Ollita del Pino.

GESG describes the state of vegetation and forest cover in all Ejidos as “excellent”, which helps to maintain and improve the environmental services that these habitats provide, like water quality and carbon storage. “We are clear that it is one of the best ways to mitigate the effects of climate change”, says GESG when describing the importance of protecting these healthy forests.

The success of the Xilitla project has led GESG to begin planning its expansion across all four Ejidos. As a result, an additional 1,690 ha will be protected with your support. Carbon Balanced funds are also being used to create forest corridors linking the reserve areas to privately owned land through a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme. Under the scheme, landowners will be annually paid to remove cattle from their land and conserve the forest they own for the next five years.

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Ejido Ollita del Pino have constructed **three water tanks** with funds from the Carbon Balanced programme, which will help the community during the dry season
- Species recently spotted on camera traps at Ejido Coronel José Castillo include **Margay**, **Jaguar** and **Crested Guan** (all Near Threatened) and **Bearded Wood-partridge** (Vulnerable)
- The cloud forests of Ejido Soledad de Zaragoza are an important safe haven for *Tillandsia imperialis*, an Endangered bromeliad
- Xilitla’s forests – made up of tree species like oak, fir, sweetgum, cypress, magnolia and Mexican Yew – store high amounts of carbon (approximately **218 tCO₂e ha⁻¹**)
- Total area protected by the Xilitla programme increased to **4,710 ha**



- WLT-supported PES areas within Xilitla reserve
- Expansions of participating Ejidos
- WLT-supported Sierra Gorda project
- Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve



Khe Nuoc Trong, Vietnam

WLT partner: Viet Nature

Expected annual climate benefit (average): 28,771 tCO₂e

In the past year, staff from Viet Nature and the Khe Nuoc Trong Nature Reserve have received training on gibbon surveying skills, forest protection laws and procedures, and QGIS (a system used for working with geospatial data). Rangers have also begun to deploy drones that will help them to reduce manual workload in remote areas and provide photographic evidence of illegal forest encroachment.

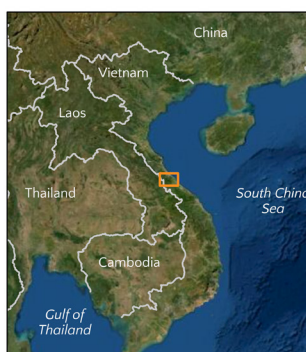
A successful survey of KNT's flagship species, the Red-shanked Douc Langur, has found the population of this Critically Endangered primate has remained stable. Many young individuals were observed and there was no evidence of hunting or trapping of this species in the entire monitoring area.

Viet Nature are now working with the villages of Rum Ho, Mit Cat and Trung Doan to plant multi-purpose, large-timber native tree species that will reduce reliance on natural forests. 37 households are already registered and planting training will be provided.

Viet Nature also plan to work with local authorities to establish a Provincial Forest Owners' Association that will represent forest farmers who wish to obtain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for their sustainable forestry enterprises.



- Carbon Project Boundary
- Khe Nuoc Trong
- Bac Huong Hoa
- International Borders



YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Rangers conducted **9,700 km** of patrols in just 6 months of 2022, destroying **15 illegal camps** and removing **over 2,000 traps and snares**
- Viet Nature estimate there are **78 Red-shanked Douc Langur troops** living in a 473,700 ha area, **22 of which** were seen in KNT (just 22,179 ha) during a July survey
- The most recent camera trap analysis produced records of **22 mammal species** and **17 bird species**, including the first sighting of an **Asiatic Black Bear** for over two years
- Other sightings include **Stump-tailed Macaque** (Vulnerable), **Annamite Striped Rabbit** (Endangered) and **Vietnamese Crested Argus** (Critically Endangered)

Kasanka, Zambia

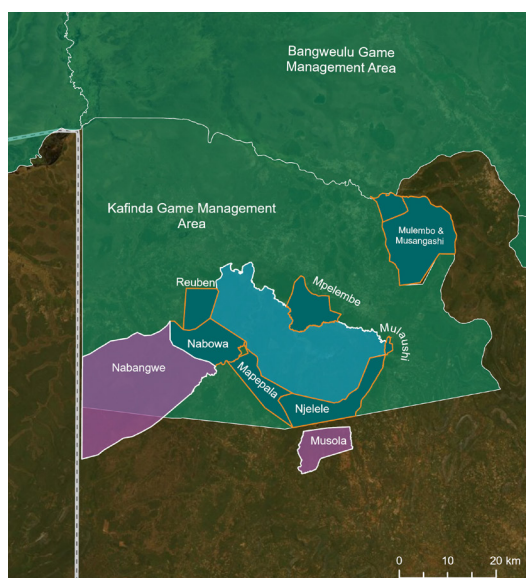
WLT partner: Kasanka Trust

Expected annual climate benefit: 5,884 tCO₂e

Over the past two years, WLT have helped Kasanka Trust to secure over 20,000 ha through the declaration of Musangashi and Mulembo Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs) within the Kafinda Game Management Area of the Greater Kasanka Landscape. To ensure forest permanence and a sustainable income source for these two adjacent CFMAs, WLT has been exploring the viability of establishing a new Carbon Balanced project here for funding in 2023.

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The latest development to the Carbon Balanced portfolio plans to build on this community-based conservation project, deriving carbon benefits from avoided deforestation and forest degradation within these two CFMAs, including from the reduced risk of forest fires. Here, local communities will be further empowered to manage their forests and to both diversify and enhance their rural livelihoods. A Community Forest Management Group has initiated ecological zoning and management planning, and will have responsibility for implementing emission-reduction activities.



- WLT-supported community reserves
- Future proposed community reserves
- Kasanka National Park
- Other protected areas
- International border



KEY WILDLIFE BENEFICIARIES



The last surviving African Elephant population in the Upper Congo system



Hooded Vulture, White-backed Vulture and White-headed Vulture (all Critically Endangered)



The 10 million Straw-coloured Fruit Bats that migrate to Kasanka every year

Credit - Top: KTL | Middle: Dave Montreuil / Shutterstock | Bottom: KTL

BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, YOU'LL BE FUNDING:

- ◉ Fire management and anti-poaching patrols
- ◉ Training of community forest guards
- ◉ Natural forest regeneration that will increase carbon sinks
- ◉ Piloting climate-smart agriculture services like soil management that will decrease slash-and-burn practices
- ◉ Protection and management of forests alongside sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
- ◉ Research and monitoring to measure the impact of the project on climate, communities and biodiversity

Working towards a better future

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advanced by your Carbon Balanced contributions

Your support for WLT's self-certified projects in Ecuador, Mexico and Vietnam directly advances nine UN SDGs, which can form a part of your sustainability strategy and stakeholder communications.

The Carbon Balanced programme supports the natural water systems – chiefly forests and rivers – that provide for people and wildlife alike. By avoiding deforestation and promoting restoration of degraded habitats (either through direct action or natural regeneration), these projects benefit the global climate, increase resilience to climate-related hazards, and act against biodiversity loss.

Thanks to you, local communities are being empowered to pursue sustainable livelihoods, while financial incentives help to reduce pressure on natural habitats. Indigenous, mestizo and ethnic minority peoples are also seeing their traditional territories, land-use rights, and cultural heritage protected.





Thank you!

To keep updated with the latest information on the Carbon Balanced projects you're supporting, and WLT's work more widely, you can head to the news section of our website for all the latest stories.

If you don't already get but would like to receive our monthly eBulletin or WLT News, which is posted three times per year, or if you have any questions, please contact us at corporate@worldlandtrust.org

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