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# Children's Tropical Forests News

## INTRODUCING OUR PREMIER PRIMARY SCHOOL FUND RAISER

January 2004

Dear Annette and pupils of Love Lane Primary School,  
Very many congratulations on your incredible fund raising efforts on Our behalf. £1,108 is a record sum raised by a Primary School for our Charity's work over the fourteen years that we have been in existence. We are well aware how hard it is to raise money at all, let alone such a large amount and we are very grateful indeed.

We will be donating your money, without deduction, to the Rincon Rainforest Campaign in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, Central America. Once again, very many thanks and congratulations on your fantastic achievement which we acknowledge with the enclosed Certificate.

With best wishes from myself and the Trustees of Children's Tropical Forests.

*Robin Jolliffe*

Chairman  
Children's Tropical Forests UK

December 2003

Dear Robin,

Here it is, at last, but I think it's well worth the wait. There are quite a few cheques because I wrote them out as the money came in. You should find that they total £1,108.10!

The last £230 was raised at our Christmas Concerts – parents were very generous. We finished with a presentation Assembly where we gave certificates to all our sponsored walkers and all the children who entered the poster competition. I presented CTF T-shirts to the winners of the poster competition (eight year olds, Sara Hunt and Cameron Ruth) and the two children who raised the most money – Charlie Flux, seven, (£67) and Niall Hall, four, (£60.50).

Kya Light won a T-shirt for having the most original fund-raising idea – holding a toy sale at her home – and Mitchell Andrews, eight, and his sister

Devon Mae, five, also won T-shirts for raising more than £80 between them.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and look forward to raising more money for your Charity in future.

*Annette Baker*

Year 1 and reception teacher  
Love Lane Primary School Cowes, Isle of Wight

September 2003

Dear Robin,

Once again thinking about the rainforests at Love Lane and this time I am trying to get the whole school involved instead of just KS2. We are planning our usual sponsored walk and our acting headteacher has said that our Harvest and Christmas efforts can also be concentrated on your organisation.

'The children seemed really enthusiastic when I spoke to them in Assembly today, so let's hope that this term's efforts will be a really big one.'

*Annette Baker*

Year 1 and reception teacher  
Love Lane Primary School Cowes, Isle of Wight



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## CTF TEAMS UP WITH BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL FOR NEW PROJECT IN BRAZIL continued overleaf

### Critically threatened forest

In its second co-operative venture with Birdlife International, CTF UK is focussing its efforts in a new area of the World – the highly threatened Atlantic Forests of Eastern Brazil. Birdlife International is the leading authority on the status of birds and their habitats throughout the World. It has conservation partners in over 100 countries, two and a half million members and 8 million supporters. Its UK partner – and one of its major financial supporters – is the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The Birdlife Brazil Program has recently identified 16 Important Bird Areas in the Atlantic Forest where urgent action is needed to conserve habitats of species considered critically threatened or with restricted ranges – and for which no protected area exists. One of these, Boa Nova, in south-east Bahia state, is the target of Birdlife's second land purchase initiative in the state. It has already established a 40 hectare (1,100 acre) evergreen Atlantic Tropical Rainforest reserve in the Serra das Lontras region. Now CTF UK is spearheading the fund-raising effort to buy a 650 hectare (1,600 acre) tract of 'mata de

cipó' forest in the Boa Nova region for which Birdlife has offered \$22,500 (£12,500) – about £8 an acre. The vegetation types in Boa Nova are very diverse – wet forests in the East, gradually becoming drier to the West, with moist or semi-deciduous forests on the mountain tops. In this drier 'transitional' area lies the mata de cipó, a seasonally dry deciduous forest.

### The bird and the bromeliad

The establishment of this 650 hectare reserve is the first step in a plan to set up a network of protected areas in Boa Nova which will ensure the long-term conservation of both the mata de cipó and wet forest bird communities. Two hundred and twenty bird species have already been recorded in the region – fifteen of which are globally threatened.

The key inhabitant of Birdlife's target 650 hectare forest is the Slender Antbird, one of the rarest antbirds in Brazil, along with its relative, the Narrow-Billed Antwren as well as another 80 bird species. But, of course, birds are right near the top of the food chain and the web of life. So if you save the birds, you are also saving a whole ecosystem with its complex of trees, plants, fungi, insects, reptiles, micro-organisms and mammals. And the dependency of birds on this complex web of life is strikingly illustrated in the case of the Slender Antbird. It lives in the mata de cipó at an altitude between 800 and 1,000 metres in areas characterised by a fairly open understorey with an abundance of lianas and patches of the huge terrestrial bromeliad Aechmea, the presence of which appears to be critical for the bird's survival in this region.



Love Lane Primary School T-Shirt winners from left, front, are Shannon Squibb 5, and Kya Light 7. Middle row is Charlie Flux 7, and Niall Hall 4. Back row is Cameron Ruth and Sarah Hunt, both 8.

# Do you know anyone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter?

## NEW PROJECT IN BRAZIL continued

### Two caretakers

After purchase of the reserve, the land title will be held by the NGO representing Birdlife in Brazil. Birdlife will then hire a project manager and two caretakers to work at the Reserve. Significantly, poor municipalities such as the one at Boa Nova benefit once the creation of the Reserve is approved by the Brazilian Government. It may receive tax benefits known as ICMS ecológico, whereby counties receive additional funds from taxes on commercial goods if they have Reserves within their boundaries. Indeed poverty represents one of the main conservation challenges in the region, since poor families whose livelihoods rely on forest products cause the greatest impacts on the natural habitat. And so, while Birdlife's initial objective is to establish protected areas in Boa Nova to cover both mata de cipó and wet forest habitats, its Action Plan for the region has been developed with broader objectives to be achieved over a ten-year period. These include encouraging the creation of additional private nature reserves in the region by local landowners; assessing the alternatives to harvesting firewood from forest remnants and getting an appropriate alternative established as standard practice; encouraging the development of agroforestry systems to preserve or create woodland corridors between forest remnants; establishing fire control and forest patrol systems; and, critically, initiating environmental education and social communication programs for the local population.



The presence of the Bromeliad Aechmea appears to be critical for the Slender Antbirds survival

## RINCON RAINFOREST SAVED

### The Rincon Rainforest saved as CTF UK makes the final donation – and a New Campaign starts

The multi-million dollar fund-raising campaign to save the Rincon Rainforest North Western Costa Rica has been successfully completed. And CTF UK – one of many contributors to the long running Rincon Fund – was on hand to make the very last donation. A rat-tat-tat of E-mails in June this year tells the story dramatically.

To: Daniel Janzen  
From: Robin Jolliffe  
Wednesday 9th June 2004

Dear Dan,  
We have just published our latest newsletter and getting some donations. Do you still require funds?

To: Robin Jolliffe  
From: Daniel Janzen  
Wednesday 9th June 2004

Hi, very good to hear from you and much enjoyed your newsletter that I just found on my desk on my return from Costa Rica. The good news is that we are DONE. About \$11,000 will finish off ALL the land purchase initially anticipated – 5512 hectares (13,600 acres).

To: Daniel Janzen  
From: Robin Jolliffe  
Thursday 10th June 2004

Dear Dan,  
We can provide \$11,000 dollars now to finish off the Rincon Campaign.

To: Robin Jolliffe  
From: Daniel Janzen  
Friday 11th June 2004

It is terrific that you can do the \$11,000 to finish – and you can tell your donors that. It will be a strong psychological boost in Costa Rica to feel the Rincon Campaign has been brought to a successful conclusion – and you can tell your donors that as well. Thanks much for caring and for being in this for the long haul.

Dan and Winnie and Espinita.

### Always something else around the corner

But, of course, with a man as passionate about saving the world's rainforests as Dan Janzen there is always something else round the corner. As Dan's June 9th E-mail says 'all the land purchase initially anticipated' has been completed. But he goes on to say that 'in the process, we have explored the eastern side of the Rincon Rainforest thoroughly and have discovered two tracts of forest along the most north-eastern tip and the most south-eastern portion that I am drooling over. I am hoping that enough people continue to send contributions to accumulate enough to buy these tracts. The total required is about \$150,000.'

'So the short answer is that further donations will be very welcome!' And indeed, CTF UK has already been the touchstone for the first contribution to this additional campaign. Readers of CTF News who have been following the Rincon story know that every dollar donated to save the Rincon Rainforest is matched by another dollar from the Wege Foundation of America. And this dollar for dollar match will continue for the newly discovered tracts.

So as CTF UK's \$11,000 finished off the original campaign, the \$11,000 it has immediately generated from Wege will go towards the first of the border rainforest purchases.

We at CTF UK join Dan Janzen in our warm thanks to you, our supporters, for your steadfast efforts in helping to save Rincon.

## ECUADOR

### Your donations closing critical rainforest gaps at Jatun Sacha

As you can see from our map, the fabulous Jatun Sacha Biological Station on the fringes of Amazonian Ecuador is still being consolidated nineteen years after the first tracts of rainforest were preserved.

The 7,500 acre forest, designated in the early 1990's as the Second World Children's Rainforest Reserve, is situated in the narrow Tropical Wet Forest Life Zone of Eastern Ecuador, where the Eastern slopes of the Andes merge into the vastness of the Amazon basin.

With the help of your donations, another piece has just been fitted into this exotic jigsaw puzzle – 60 hectares (approx. 150 acres) of forest, marked on our map as Douglas Clarke's tract.

This strip of forest has its feet on the banks of the Arajuno River, in the upper Napo River watershed, which exhibits some of the highest biodiversity counts in the world. Adjacent to Douglas Clarke's tract is a plot of rainforest where over 246 tree species have been identified in a 1 hectare (2.5 acre) area. The Jatun Sacha Reserve count has now reached 535 bird species (more than 1 in 20 of all the species in the world!) and an astonishing 850 butterfly species. And 2,000 fungi species have been found along a one kilometre transect.

### Jaguars and Mountain Lions

95 per cent of the Douglas Clarke tract is primary forest and the remainder is secondary forest of various ages. It will provide additional space for all animals, birds and other organisms that receive pressure from the road on the Northern side of the Jatun Sacha Reserve along the Napo River. It also provides important habitat for jaguars and mountain lions that occasionally cross the Arajuno River to the Jatun Sacha side for hunting.



The Douglas Clarke tract is shown in red

It fills an important gap on the back side of the Reserve where some of the highest quality, most diverse forest is found – and, as is clear from the map, it connects significant blocks of forest along the banks of the Arajuno River.

The purchase also removes a dangerous threat to the most sensitive part of the Jatun Sacha forest. Because of the previous owner's eco-tourism interests, he was in partnership with the local provincial works commissioner to construct a road to his block of forest through the Jatun Sacha Reserve. Indeed, the Jatun Sacha Foundation recently had to fight the two partners all the way to the Ecuadorian Supreme Court to stop the planned road – an expensive legal fight which the Foundation eventually won.

On a broader front, the 19-year development of the Jatun Sacha Biological Station has had a very positive effect in the area, as numerous local Non-Government Organisations have developed their own private reserve initiatives along the Jatun Sacha peninsula, starting projects based on the Jatun Sacha model.



Jatun Sacha Reserve – hunting ground for Jaguars