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# Children's Tropical Forests News

## ART COMPETITION KIDS RAISE RAINFOREST FUNDS

The pupils of Livingstone Primary School, New Barnet, hit the headlines in the Hendon and Barnet Times earlier this year when their artistic talents raised £50 for CTF UK.

It all started when Deputy Head, Lyn Saunders went on holiday to Costa Rica and visited the fabulous Monteverde Cloud Forest with which the Children's Rainforest Network has been so closely associated. She was so struck by its beauty that she came back determined to do something for rainforest conservation. And the obvious way was to involve the children at her school.

Barnett and Hendon Times



Livingstone Primary School pupils (from left) Onur Yidirim (8), Mellisa Theoharous (10), Amy-Louise Warner (8) and Rosie May Pratchet (6) show off their artwork to CTF chairman Robin Jolliffe

An art competition was organised – with rainforest animals, birds and trees as the theme. Each pupil paid an entry fee of 50p – which means, if Ed's sums are up to scratch, one hundred entries!

But who to send the proceeds to? Lyn searched and found us on the Web and got in touch. So on 24th February this year, Robin Jolliffe, Chairman of CTF UK, found himself talking about rainforests surrounded by all Livingstone's 200 pupils.

Robin was much impressed by the life, colour and artistic flare of the competition paintings as he presented the prizes to the three winners – Everybody was a winner really!

### Acknowledgements

Children's Tropical Forests UK would like to thank the following for their invaluable voluntary work to enable the publication of the CTF Newsletter:  
Roger Littlewood, Sean Newell (Trustees)  
Patricia & Michael Fogden (Photography)  
Information Engineers (Design)

## IN FOCUS

In the first of regular contributions Emma Jane Berridge brings 'In Focus' one of the many important species to be found in our rainforest projects.

The jaguar is one of the least known of the wild cats but it's also one of the most endangered. In appearance, the jaguar is often confused with the leopard, since both cats have similar brownish-yellow fur with rosette markings – however the jaguar has small dots within the rosette marking, and a stockier, more muscular body, with a shorter tail. In the wild, though, telling the two cats apart is not an issue, since they each inhabit a different continent.

Jaguars live in the rainforests of Central and South America and are by far the biggest cat on the continent. They are a solitary species, hunting alone over a huge area of 10-30 square miles. Because of this, their population is dropping in direct relation to the loss of their lush habitat.

The jaguar plays a vital role in the survival of everything from beetles to monkeys, and perhaps even the jungle itself, in an ecosystem of plants, bacteria, insects and animals that link together and rely on each other and on the temperature, the mist and the sunlight that filters through the forest trees. In the 1960s, the main threat to the jaguar's survival was the fur trade – the elusive nature of the jaguar made their coat highly desirable and in one year alone 13,500 skins were imported in the USA.

Now, though, it is the destruction of the complex habitat that endangers them, and so the protection of their rainforest home is more important than ever.

Patricia & Michael Fogden



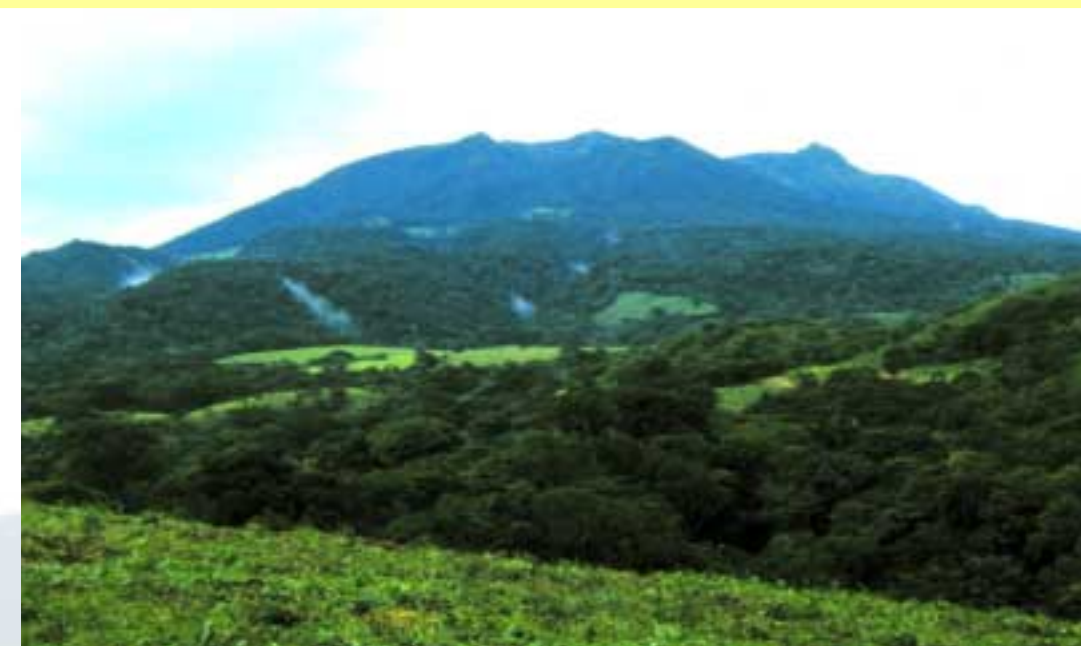
Jaguar – the largest of the rainforest 'cats' in Central America



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Editor: Roger Littlewood



Rincon Rainforest below the barren volcanic mountain top – Guanacaste, northern Costa Rica

## SAVING ALL THE RINCON RAINFOREST IS IN OUR SIGHTS

continued overleaf

### A last big fund raising push

A last big fund raising push in 2003 will ensure the survival of all 5,500 hectares (14,800 acres) of the Rincon Rainforest in North Western Costa Rica! The Rincon rescue plan, launched in January 1999, has been steadily supported by Children's Tropical Forests UK, the International Children's Rainforest Network and many other charities and donors worldwide.

And now, an exchange of E-mails between Robin Jolliffe, Chairman of CTF-UK and Dan Janzen, the supercharged American academic leading the Rincon fight with ace negotiator, Sigifredo Marin, the Rincon Rainforest Project Director, has confirmed that victory is in sight.

From: Robin Jolliffe  
To: Dan Janzen  
Wednesday 5 March 2003

Dear Dan

Hope you and the family and your forest are keeping well! We have approximately \$4,500 for Rincon Rainforest purchase which I propose to send to you within the next 10 days.

I hope the money is still required.

From: Dan Janzen  
To: Robin Jolliffe  
Wednesday 5 March 2003

Hi, very good to hear from you. I have a lot of good news!!! The Wege Foundation (a large American conservation charity and a major supporter of the Rincon campaign) has again agreed to match all further donations for Rincon - dollar for dollar - until the whole forest is bought. So, the bottom line is that your donation is super welcome - and will be doubled by Wege. The German Children's Rainforest just sent \$8,000 and the Swedish Children's Rainforest sent \$40,000 last December.

Now, because of the Wege Foundation match, we have a bit less than \$300,000 left to raise from other sources so it would be very nice if you could beef up the Appeal in your next Newsletter.

Based on these successes, we have taken the bold step to negotiate for the last large piece of Rincon - 743 hectares. The \$130,000 downpayment due the day after tomorrow (7th March 2003) has been donated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thankyou for hanging in there.

## SAVING RINCON continued

### The Rincon Winter Holiday Resort

So, let's start to lift the lid on some of Rincon's natural history treasurestore by asking first: 'Why the US Fish and Wildlife Service?'

At the last count, 309 different species of birds have been recorded in Rincon. And, of these, at least 64 species are known to spend the Northern winter in Rincon's wet and steamy rainforest - and then to migrate North to the United States to sing, display and breed. These birds include elegant stunners like swallow-tailed and white-tailed kites and the astonishing scissor-tailed flycatcher; some of the World's prettiest and most brightly coloured little warblers - including Blackburnian, Kentucky, golden-winged, Magnolia and Canada; the US East Coast's only hummingbird - the tiny gem-like ruby-throated hummingbird; western, scarlet and summer tanagers - real tropical bobby dazzlers these; as well as a confusing array of nightmare 'small brown jobs' - willow, alder and acadian flycatchers which puzzle American birdwatchers with their similar plumages and need to be identified by their songs and their habitats.

In recent years, counts of these neotropical migrants as they move North in Spring have shown dramatic reductions in numbers - the legacy of massive destruction of their Winter rainforest havens in Central and South America as well as destruction, disturbance and pollution in their United States breeding territories. The conservation of forests like Rincon is critical in arresting this decline.

And so a tightly written, closely argued 10-page proposal to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the conservation of mid-elevation Costa Rican rainforest habitat for neotropical migrants was prepared by the Rincon rescuers with accompanying maps. It was submitted on the 20th March 2002 and the response, in hard cash, clearly demonstrates the concern of the USFWS for the survival of the birds which bring an infusion of life, colour and song to the wetlands, grasslands and, especially, the woodlands of the United States each succeeding Spring.

The Rincon Rainforest grows on the very wet Atlantic slope of the mountain backbone of Latin America at an altitude between 400 and 900 metres (1,300-3,000ft). Higher still up the slope, along the volcano tops which are already protected as part of the vast 380,000 acre Area de Conservacion Guanacasta, at least another 21 species of neotropical migrants spend their Northern winter. The conservation of Rincon, which will eventually be incorporated into the ACG, will make these higher elevation Reserves, which are difficult to patrol and warden, much safer from the casual incursions of poachers and loggers.

### Species-rich and unique

But there is plainly much more to Rincon than just as a haven for neotropical migrant birds, important and fascinating though this is. In the next issue of CTF News, as the Rincon rescue draws to a close, we shall take a close look at the history of the Rincon rainforest and its ecology.

## Where there's a will...

In the last issue of Children's Tropical Forests News it was good to read that two legacies to CTF-UK have greatly helped in rainforest purchases. A bequest is a wonderful way to pass on 'thanks' in a tangible way to the precious wild places of our planet.

A legacy can make a great boost to the achievements of wildlife conservation bodies. And for the well off, it's better surely to benefit wildlife than pay it in tax. I've left Children's Tropical Forests a small bequest.

Richard Porter, CTF Trustee

## RAINFOREST AT UWASU

### Patient negotiation

In the November 2002 Issue of CTF News, we reported the astonishing progress made in expanding the Uwasu Rainforest Reserve in central Amazonian Brazil to an effective 620,000 acres in under three years.

And we outlined AAP's plans for further expansion of the Reserve. AAP is the Brazilian Conservation Trust that owns the Uwasu Reserve. These plans included the purchase of 14,350 acres on the North-Eastern shore of Lake Uauacu owned by a Brazilian woman, Dona Rosa. More detailed information has revealed that Dona Rosa's land actually extends to some 7,000 hectares (17,300 acres) and will cost around US\$10 per hectare.

The AAP Project Director, Vasco van Roosmalen, E-mailed us with a progress report.

From: Vasco Van Roosmalen  
To: CTF  
Friday 6 December 2002

Everything is moving along but it is slow!

Dona Rosa has hired one of the ten best lawyers in Manaus to take care of her side of things in bringing the registry of her land up to date and we are confident we can move forward in the first half of 2003.

At the same time, we are looking at expanding to the South but have run into the similar issue of delays by the current owner in bringing his legal status up to date. This area is known as the Aiapua Lake Inlet - a total of 6,000 hectares (15,000 acres) - for which CTF-UK has earmarked substantial funds.

After the headlong early progress at Uwasu, it is now time for patient negotiation.

Left Birdwatching in the Uwasu Rainforest  
Right Blue and yellow Macaws in the Uwasu Rainforest



Left: Robin Jolliffe, Right: Patricia & Michael Fogden

## BELLBIRD HABITAT PROTECTION

### Thankyou for Children's 'Eternal Rainforest' UK

News has recently reached us from the Fundacion Conservacionista Costarricense (The Conservation Foundation of Costa Rica) that they have entered into an agreement to protect a further 11 hectares (27 acres) of Three - Wattled Bellbird habitat in Los Llanos, Monteverde, Costa Rica.

The Children's 'Eternal Rainforest' UK\* and two private donors provided the funds for the down payment on this 11 hectare farm, which is a mosaic of forest and farmland. CTF UK's \$5,250 donation came to us from two legacies.

The total protected habitat in Los Llanos is now 38 hectares (93 acres). Already 27 hectares is in the stewardship of the Monteverde Institute, which will protect, restore and use the land as a research and environmental education centre. Studies will be particularly focussed on forest fragmentation and restoration ecology.



Three Wattled Bellbirds inhabit the forest in Los Llanos, Costa Rica

The Los Llanos region of Monteverde (see map) is used by a large population of fabulous Three-Wattled Bellbirds in their post breeding season. In June, Bellbirds must leave the higher elevation protected cloud forest to find food. During the months of June, July and August Los Llanos has abundant Lauraceae (Avocado family) fruit, the main diet of two of Monteverde's endangered bird species, the Bellbird and the Resplendent Quetzal. The Fundacion estimates that more than 350 individual Bellbirds rely on the remaining forest fragments of the Los Llanos region. It believes that without the protection of these remaining pieces of forest, in conjunction with re-forestation of cleared areas using native tree species, the Bellbird will not be able to survive in Monteverde. The same may be true for the Quetzal.

Los Llanos is a small area - approximately 350 hectares - within the Monteverde region, itself a prime target for development as the tourism industry expands. Farms are being abandoned and sold for house lots. These are the same farms that need to return to forest in order to support the species which ecotourists come to Monteverde to see.

### Dispersing avocado seeds

Not only are the forests of Los Llanos important for the survival of Bellbirds, but the vegetation of these forests is very different from other protected areas in the country. Studies by Dr William Haber and Willow Zuchowski show that over 12 new species of trees have been discovered in this zone over the last decade. Three of these tree species still do not have scientific names. Of the important Lauraceae avocados, sixteen species occur in the Los Llanos region that are not found in the high altitude Monteverde cloud forest reserves.

The Bellbird is a primary seed disperser of wild avocados and so it is essential to the continued existence of Lauraceae trees. If we lose the Bellbird, the cloud forests and rain shadow forests of Monteverde will be forever altered.

In an E-mail to Robin Jolliffe, chairman of CTF UK, Deb Hamilton of Fundacion Conservacionista expressed their appreciation of our donation.

From: Deb Hamilton  
To: Robin Jolliffe  
Saturday 14 December 2002

We cannot thank you enough for your interest in protecting Bellbird habitat. The Bellbirds themselves cannot thank you but we do.

In addition to your help, we have been able to raise almost half the total purchase price for the 11 hectare farm and we are working diligently to raise the remaining \$90,000 by January 2004. As part of the agreement, we are guaranteed to receive a percentage of the farm corresponding to the percentage that has been paid in case we are not successful in raising the rest of the money. That was an important part of the agreement in order to protect donor's interests.

\* Editors Note: Fundacion Conservacionista has referred to CTF UK as the Children's Eternal Rainforest-UK, because our first major project, under the Chairmanship of the late Tina Jolliffe, was to raise very large sums for the purchase of the First Children's Eternal Rainforest, close to Monteverde, where Bellbirds also spend part of their year.

Los Llanos forest fragment action area - Monteverde, Costa Rica

