



WWF®

REPORT

NOVEMBER

2010

Conservation Highlights

May 2010 - December 2010

Recent WWF achievements in protecting biodiversity and
reducing humanity's footprint in priority areas of the
global conservation programme

YEAR OF THE TIGER

From Hua Hin to St. Petersburg

In this Chinese Year of the Tiger, WWF has made doubling wild tiger numbers a top priority. From 21–24 November, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin hosted the International Tiger Conservation Forum in St Petersburg, bringing together leaders of the 13 tiger range countries. The Forum marked a significant milestone for nature conservation: Heads of Government and high level ministers secured the highest level of political commitment for tiger conservation with the endorsement of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP), including national and regional actions to stop the loss of tigers and double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022 – the next Year of the Tiger. WWF stewarded this political process throughout the year, with its Tigers Alive Initiative working closely with the WWF Network.

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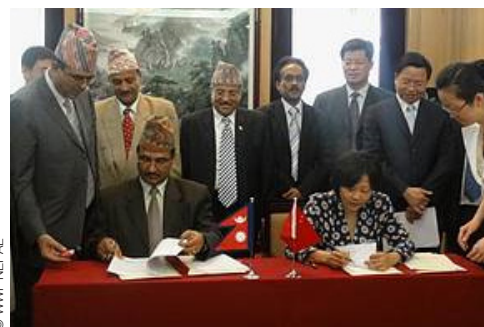
The endorsement by the 13 countries with wild tiger populations of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme was the culmination of a year-long process that began in Hua Hin, Thailand in January, which produced the first official agreement on the goal of doubling wild tiger numbers by 2022. In July, a follow-up meeting in Bali produced the agreement to develop the Global Tiger Recovery Programme. All tiger countries had full engagement in the process, and developed their individual National Tiger Recovery Programmes, which were folded into the GTRP, completed in late September, and endorsed by the Tiger Forum in St Petersburg in November.

Transboundary cooperation on tiger conservation

In June, China and Nepal agreed on a historic pledge to better protect nature in their countries, marking the first time the two governments agreed to cooperate on conservation, forest management and wildlife protection, and control the illegal wildlife trade, including the trade in tiger parts that is the cause of destruction of wild tiger populations.

Experts from seven countries, including the crucial tiger range states of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal established the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) – a coordinated regional response to combat illegal poaching and trafficking, and a key step to stop trade in tiger parts.

© WWF NEPAL



Tiger conservation on the China–Russia border

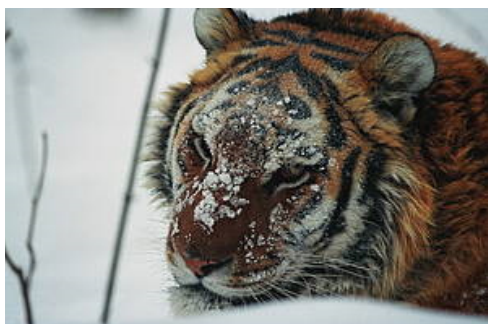
Jilin province in China and neighbouring Primorsky province in Russia agreed to work towards the first transboundary Amur tiger conservation network in the provinces that are home to the world's largest big cat. The population of the highly endangered Amur tiger is currently estimated at 500. The Russian government added the Korean Pine, a critical tree within Amur tiger habitat, to the list of trees which cannot be logged in Russia. In October, swift action from WWF and others led to the canceling of a planned logging concession in Primorsky Province. China also drafted the “Tiger Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Jilin Province”, furthering conservation efforts in this vital tiger region.

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Leonardo DiCaprio engages for tigers

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio has joined forces with WWF-US in support of the Save Tigers Now campaign that sets an ambitious goal of USD 20 million to support the vision of doubling the tiger population by 2022, the next Year of the Tiger. During the International Tiger Conservation Forum in St. Petersburg in November, Leonardo gave USD 1 million to WWF for urgent tiger conservation efforts. “Illegal poaching of tigers for their parts and massive habitat loss due to palm oil, timber and paper production are driving this species to extinction,” said DiCaprio. “If we don’t take action now, one of the most iconic animals on our planet could be gone in just a few decades. By saving tigers, we can also protect some of our vast remaining ancient forests and improve the lives of indigenous communities.”



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Good news in the Year of the Tiger

Significant progress has been made in this Year of the Tiger including:

- Nepal created the new 90,000 hectare Banke National Park (NP), and extended Bardia NP, greatly expanding protected tiger habitat. A survey of Nepal’s Chitwan NP counted 125 adult tigers, compared to 91 in 2009.
- India declared its 39th tiger reserve and announced eight more in development. It made US \$50 million available for tiger conservation, and initiated the world’s largest and most comprehensive tiger survey.
- Myanmar tripled the Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve to 1.74 million hectares.
- Malaysia significantly increased penalties for wildlife crime, including illegal trade in tiger parts.
- Russia provided political leadership in hosting the Tiger Conservation Forum, and is working with China on transboundary tiger conservation.
- China drafted a tiger conservation strategy and action plan, and made agreements with India, Russia and Nepal on cross border cooperation.
- Thailand initiated its “SMART Patrolling” programme in its Western Forest Complex, a critical area which contains its largest tiger populations.
- Lao PDR listed tigers at Category 1 – totally protected species – in its enhanced national wildlife law.



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

Ambassadors for Forests event

Intense negotiations at the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) 10 in Nagoya, Japan in October, agreed a strong roadmap for conservation up to 2020 sending a positive signal to upcoming climate talks in Cancun, Mexico. Strong Network engagement helped secure the outcome.

The CBD's Strategic Plan commits 193 countries "to halt the loss of biodiversity" by 2020 by: integrating biodiversity values into national accounting; eliminating subsidies; protecting 17 percent of land and 10 percent of marine areas; and halving the rate of habitat loss.

G77 countries threatened no deal without new money and an Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Protocol. With no commitments on financing from developed countries, a WWF compromise was adopted to identify funding needs and set targets at COP 11 in India in 2012. The government of Japan brokered a deal on ABS in the final hours of the meeting.

This is a critical year for the world's forests.

With the CBD, the UNFCCC and the complementary REDD+ Partnership making key decisions, WWF sought commitments to strong targets for reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the CBD Strategic Plan and for a REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC. WWF brought together Ministers and senior officials from forest and donor countries, NGOs and donor agencies. All five ministers, from Gabon, Mexico, Nepal, Paraguay and Republic of Congo, signed on as Ambassadors for Forests in a new initiative to build political leadership to halt forest loss and safeguard biodiversity, the climate and people's well-being. Additional governments will be invited to promote the global goal of halting forest loss in the lead-up to the UN Year of the Forests 2011.



Marine protection in Chile and Argentina

The government of Chile announced at the CBD COP new marine protected areas (MPAs) including the 15 million ha no-take MPA Salas y Gomez Island near Easter Island, and WWF prioritized the Gulf of Corcovado – important as a calving ground for endangered blue whales – for urgent protection.

WWF presented a Leaders for a Living Planet award to Argentina's National Park Administration President, Dr. Patricia Gandini, in recognition of her leadership in the country's conservation efforts in the south-west Atlantic Ocean and the establishment of four new MPAs – part of a doubling of Argentina's MPA cover, adding more than one million ha along the coast of Patagonia.



Partnerships to achieve conservation targets

A two-part event at the COP saw firstly CBD focal points among the 27 governments across five WWF priority landscapes – Altai Sayan, Carpathians, Caucasus, Dinaric Arc and West Africa Marine – highlight the importance of partnerships and transboundary cooperation in the MAVA Foundation-funded Protected Areas for a Living Planet initiative. This has resulted in over 100 new protected areas (PAs) totaling 4.2 million ha, €16 million in co-funding and commitments to establish 11.5 million ha of new PAs.

In the second event, WWF met with donor organizations to explore collaboration to deliver CBD targets in 20 priority multi-country land and sea-scapes by 2020. This idea to focus donor attention and funding on agreed priority areas met great enthusiasm.



Saving Sumatra

Following the landmark announcement at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2008, that the 10 governors of the Indonesian island of Sumatra supported by four ministries, had agreed to restore critical ecosystems and protect priority forests, the Roadmap for saving Sumatra's ecosystems was presented to the CBD COP. Sumatra lost 50 percent of its tropical forest since 1985 and is vitally important for highly biodiverse forests, carbon stored in peat soils and four flagship species: Sumatran elephant, orangutan, rhino and tiger. Three key provinces – Jambi, Riau and west Sumatra – have come together in the RIMBA initiative to achieve forest protection, including three of Sumatra's six priority tiger landscapes, backed by a 2-year moratorium on conversion of peat swamp forest.



© WWF-INDONESIA/KOKO YULIANTO

Major conservation commitments in West Africa

Major new commitments were announced at an event hosted by the regional programme for the conservation of coastal and marine zones in West Africa (PRCM) and the CBD's Lifeweb initiative during the CBD COP. Progress on protected area (PA) creation and fisheries management was highlighted, and the ministers made new PA commitments: Guinea will extend its PA cover from 8 to 25 percent by 2020; Guinea Bissau from 15 to 24 percent by 2012; Mauritania from 30 to 40 percent in 2011; Gambia from 4 to 17 percent by 2020. In addition, Guinea Bissau announced it will host a donor roundtable for financing protected areas in West Africa in 2011. This was supported by the regional ministers, and development partners such as Germany, Netherlands, France, Spain, the GEF, EU, and The World Bank.



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ADB-WWF event on key Asia-Pacific ecoregions

On the last evening of the COP, a well-attended dinner – including 10 ministers – heard of progress in the Coral Triangle, Greater Mekong, and Heart of Borneo initiatives supported by the ADB-WWF partnership. A highlight was the Bhutanese Minister's announcement of the "Climate Summit For a Living Himalayas" in October 2011 of leaders of the four Eastern Himalayan countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal – to focus on sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services and measures to protect vulnerable forest and freshwater ecosystems. WWF International Director-General Jim Leape's closing called on the governments present to take up the unique opportunity in the following 24 hours to achieve a landmark agreement to prioritise biodiversity conservation over the next decade.



© ELIZABETH KEMF / WWF-CANON

BIODIVERSITY

WWF PRIORITY PLACES AND SPECIES

WWF's biodiversity meta-goal is to ensure the integrity of the most outstanding natural places on Earth. This includes the protection of biodiversity in high conservation priority areas, and restoring populations of those species with the highest ecological, economic and cultural value.

High seas marine protected areas

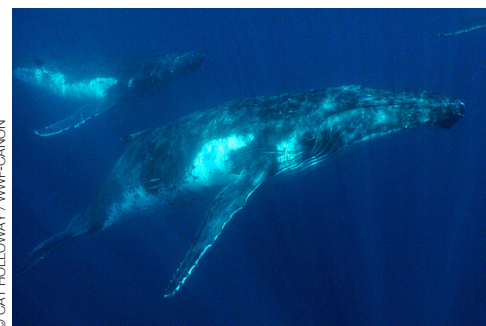
The world's first high seas marine protected areas (HSMMPAs) – a WWF priority for many years – were celebrated at a Ministerial Meeting of North-East Atlantic Coastal States under the Oslo-Paris (OSPAR) Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment in Bergen, Norway, in September. The South Orkney islands HSMMPA will kick off creation of a MPA network in the Southern Ocean.

The second HSMMPA – a mid-oceanic ridge in the North Sea, the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone – will lead to the creation of the world's first network of six marine protected areas on the High Seas which will be important areas to support fisheries recovery and provide protection of the rich biodiversity including deep sea corals.



Humpback whales get priority in Colombia

After months of intense debate and only days before a new government took office, Colombia announced in August the creation of the 47,000 ha Malaga Bay Uramba National Natural Park on the Pacific coast – an important mating and calving ground for humpback whales, with 500 to 700 visiting each year. Supporters of the park as a whale sanctuary had to battle proponents of a huge proposed port. The area is recognized as one of the world's most important sites for the reproduction of humpback whales.



Tripling Madagascar PA cover by 2012

Despite the ongoing political crisis in Madagascar, efforts to implement the Durban Vision – announced at the World Parks Congress in 2003 – to triple the island's protected areas (PAs) coverage from 1.7 million ha to 6 million ha, have achieved 5.2 million ha and the Ministry of the Environment and Forests has set a goal to create an additional 1 million ha of marine protected areas by 2012.

New PA models better link local livelihoods, culture and traditions and conservation.

The new PAs include targets on ecosystem services, zoning that allows for sustainable use of natural resources and social safeguards policies. However slash and burn remains a threat to forests throughout the island – even in PAs.



Amazon Alive! A decade of discovery

Between 1999 and 2009, more than 1,200 new species of plants and vertebrates were discovered in the Amazon – a rate of one new species every three days – confirming the Amazon as one of the most diverse - and still unknown - places on Earth. New species included in the report “Amazon Alive: A Decade of Discoveries 1999-2009” range from a 4 metre anaconda, to a bald parrot and a new species of pink river dolphin. The report was launched as a means to raise global awareness on the need to protect the Amazon’s fabled biodiversity treasures which provide enormous economic, social, and environmental benefits to people in the region, and to support the Amazon Initiative’s goal to achieve creation of Amazon-wide networks of protected areas.



Help for Brazil’s threatened Cerrado

The Brazilian government announced in September a new plan to protect the Cerrado – a WWF priority area rich in biodiversity and crucial for freshwater supplies, but highly threatened by economic development. Over two years USD200 million will be invested in this woodland-savannah area the size of Greenland which feeds important Amazon tributaries and the world’s largest wetland, the Pantanal – both also WWF priorities. The plan will develop a sustainable land use plan to reduce forest loss and ensure continuity of ecosystem services such as provision of freshwater supplies through creation of 2.5 million ha of new protected area and securing 5.8 million ha of indigenous peoples’ territory.



Hope for threatened forests

The Argentine Province Misiones has approved a major new land use law for native forests, helping protect 1.2 million ha of Atlantic forest. This follows a commitment made by the province and the Paraguay government at the World Forestry Congress in 2009 to achieve zero net deforestation in the Atlantic forest. Shared by Argentina’s Misiones Province, Brazil and Paraguay, this is a highly threatened subtropical forest, with less than eight percent surviving and heavily fragmented.

WWF and UN-HABITAT are jointly tackling land conflict issues threatening the Virunga National Park in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, noted for mountain gorillas. The aim is to help refugees of the civil conflict while maintaining the park’s integrity and relationships with local communities.



FOOTPRINT

Reduce the paper footprint

WWF's second meta-goal is to reduce humankind's Ecological Footprint so that we live within the renewable resource limits of our planet. This builds on strong foundations and targets humanity's carbon, commodity and water footprints which have the greatest impact on biodiversity.

WWF's work on transforming markets focuses on the production of key commodities including palm oil, soy, tuna, timber, whitefish, pulp and paper, farmed salmon and shrimp, that impact our priority species and places, and contribute substantially to humanity's footprint.

By working with companies along commodity supply chains, showing that environmental impacts can be affordably and measurably reduced, and by creating consumer preference, entire commodity markets can be tipped and large-scale environmental outcomes delivered.

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WWF has launched a new voluntary rating tool for paper companies to report on their global ecological footprint. The Paper Company Environmental Index assesses key environmental criteria, such as use of recycled fibre or fibre coming from well-managed forests, energy use and CO2 emissions, water consumption and water pollution. Five globally significant fine paper manufacturers — Domtar from North America, M-real, Stora Enso and UPM from Europe and Mondi Group from South Africa/Europe — have been the first to voluntarily disclose their environmental profiles on WWF's new online Paper Company Index.

Market transformation - Palm Oil

Annual production capacity of Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)-certified sustainable palm oil crossed the 3 million tons mark in September 2010 — the steepest increase since certification began in August 2008. Global production is close to 50 million tons annually, of which about 6.4 percent is now certified by the RSPO — twice as much as only a year ago. In the first quarter of 2010 the overall market uptake of sustainable palm oil was 95 percent. Over 20 global companies identified as key to transforming the palm oil market have already made commitments to use only certified sustainable palm oil between now and 2015, including Walmart, Unilever and Nestlé.



© VOLKER KESS / WWF

Coastal East Africa - Tuna and FSC

The Coastal East Africa states — Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania — have actively championed and agreed various options for conservation of both tuna and non-target species. At the 14th Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meeting in Korea, WWF's facilitation helped form a coalition between the coastal states, which resulted in a resolution on several Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna management measures, and agreement on the need for a major overhaul of the IOTC.

Kenya and Tanzania have agreed national Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards for certifying well-managed forests and proposed these to FSC for adoption.



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Walmart and agricultural sustainability

In October Walmart, the world's largest retailer, announced new goals on sustainable agriculture in a key area: food – representing half of the company's USD 405 billion annual turnover. Walmart committed to selling only beef that does not contribute to deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon and to sourcing only certified sustainable palm oil for its own proprietary brands. The retail giant also agreed to join WWF's Global Beef Symposium to discuss the need for global beef standards and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Walmart restated its 2006 commitment to sustainable seafood and expanded it to include aquaculture.



© WALMART

Smart Fishing - Whitefish

With only a slow recovery of Grand Banks cod – estimated at only 10 percent of their historic numbers despite a 16-year moratorium on cod fishing – the fishing ban has been extended a further three years. Faster recovery is dependent on reducing the wasteful bycatch of juvenile cod in other Grand Banks fisheries.

The Icelandic Group – one of the five largest seafood companies in Europe – has begun a process of sustainability certification of all cod and haddock fisheries in Iceland to the MSC standard. Successful assessment will create open access to world markets that will deliver fair opportunities and choice for all Iceland's fishermen, as the MSC certification label is increasingly the choice of responsible consumers and retailers.

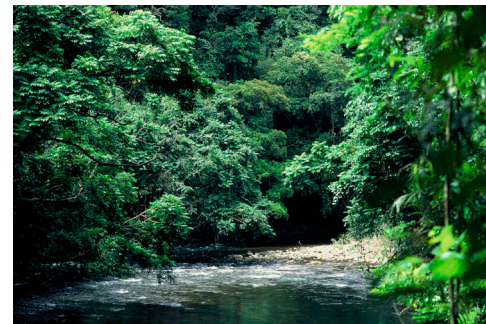


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Financing the Heart of Borneo

The Heart of Borneo Initiative, in partnership with WWF-Indonesia's Global Forest and Trade Network, recently celebrated the inclusion of 5 new forest concessions totaling 418,000 ha in a market-based programme to achieve responsible forest management on at least 4 million ha of the 22 million ha forest.

A report "Financing the Heart of Borneo: A Partnership Approach to Economic Sustainability" identifying the value of the Heart of Borneo's natural capital – forests, biodiversity and ecosystem services – and how these can be secured through innovative finance, was launched by Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia at the CBD COP in Nagoya, Japan. The three governments also signaled their willingness to integrate the report into their economic development plans.



© ALAIN COMPOST / WWF-CANON

WWF 2010 Living Planet report

New analysis shows populations of tropical species are plummeting and humanity's demands on natural resources are 50 percent more than the Earth can sustain, reveals the 2010 edition of WWF's Living Planet Report – the leading survey of the planet's health. The biennial report, produced in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London and the Global Footprint Network, uses the global Living Planet Index as a measure of the health of almost 8,000 populations of more than 2,500 species. The Index shows a decrease by 30 percent since 1970, with the tropics hardest hit showing a 60 percent decline in less than 40 years. Populations of freshwater tropical species have fallen by nearly 70 percent – greater than any species decline measured on land or in our oceans.



Prospects improve for transboundary river treaty

A vital treaty to help secure the ecological integrity of the more than 250 rivers shared by two or more countries is picking up speed.

To date, 20 countries have joined the UN Watercourses Convention, and only a further 15 parties are required for entry into force – with Burkina Faso, France and Greece expected to become parties by end 2010, following Guinea Bissau and Nigeria which joined earlier this year. The treaty provides a global framework for resolving disputes and promoting cooperation between states on the sustainable and equitable management of transboundary waters. This is an essential instrument given rising pressures on water resources from rapid population growth, food and energy demands, and climate change.



Unilever commits to environmental sustainability

Under its Sustainable Living Plan, Unilever has announced that 100% of its agricultural raw materials will be 'sustainably sourced' by 2020. The aim is to put in place systems of certification and self-assurance covering every single ingredient in every single product – a vast undertaking. If all goes to plan, the company's net impact on the environment in 2020 will be no greater than it is today even though the company is simultaneously setting out to double its revenues. WWF has a longstanding partnership with Unilever, highlighted by the joint creation of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in the mid 1990s, and more recently with efforts to promote sustainable production of palm oil, and other products with a high environmental impact.



Making hydropower sustainable

In a crucial step to help guide hydropower development to be less environmentally and socially destructive, the hydropower industry and NGOs such as WWF, TNC and Oxfam have collaborated to develop new decision-making tools. Co-led by WWF, TNC and the International Hydropower Association (IHA), the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol was approved by the IHA Board in September and has been recommended to IHA member companies for implementation. And following a 10-year collaboration between ADB, MRC, USAID, and WWF, the Rapid Basin-wide Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tool (RAST) was finalized and released in October. These tools will help funding agencies and NGOs identify wise hydropower proposals.

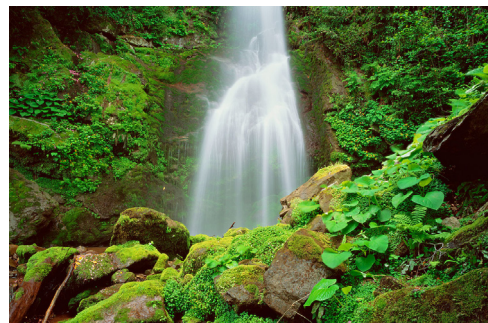


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Increased PA networks in Russia and Mongolia

The Russian Government has approved establishment of 29 new protected areas (PAs) covering 9.6 million hectares by 2020, arising out of a gap analysis of PA cover in Russia supported by WWF and TNC which identified 566 marine and terrestrial areas requiring protection. Regional governments have given a green light to establish an additional 175 protected areas.

In Mongolia, a gap analysis of PA cover supported by WWF and TNC identified 34 priority areas for protection, and proposes improved legislation, financing and management to reduce pressures on biodiversity, and help achieve Mongolia's target to protect 30 percent of national territory by 2015.



© WILD WONDERERS OF EUROPE / GEORG POPP / WWF

WWF partnership with Coca-Cola

An ongoing partnership between The Coca-Cola Company and WWF to improve the Danube River Basin is showing how businesses and non-profits can work together to benefit nature conservation. In 2007, the Danube became one of seven river basins worldwide selected for partnership. This is now demonstrating the benefits of wetland systems to the public and decision-makers, while also serving to improve water efficiency and reduce climate impact within manufacturing plants, and to promote sustainable agriculture throughout the company's supply chain.



© ALEXANDER IVANOV

Alliance to stem tropical forest loss and carbon emissions

World governments meeting at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Cancun Mexico in December, agreed a number of decisions to be further developed in 2011 with the objective of achieving a final outcome at COP 17 in South Africa at the end of the year. Key agreements included rules for the measurement, reporting and verification of emissions reductions and finance, establishment of a green fund, and on a process to develop a mechanism for projects to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)+ through sustainable forest management.

In 2011, WWF will seek additional leadership from the EU and other countries such as China, India and the US on identifying emissions reductions that can achieve the accepted goal of limiting average global warming to less than 2°C.

More than 50 governments agreed in Oslo in July to form a partnership to stop loss of tropical forests and associated carbon emissions, pledging more than USD 4 billion for reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) initiatives which also Norway and Indonesia have agreed on a USD 1 billion REDD+ initiative to support Indonesia's efforts to reduce emissions from forest loss, including a two-year moratorium on conversion of natural forests and peat lands into plantations.



© WWF-INDONESIA/KOKO YULIANTO

Topten consumer guides

The popular Topten consumer guides have been launched in the USA and mainland China, giving many more people around the world the opportunity to fight climate change by making informed decisions to purchase energy efficient appliances. An international alliance, including WWF, Topten offers localized, consumer-oriented online tools for energy efficient products. Topten addresses climate change and energy consumption by encouraging innovation for super-efficient products which offer one of the quickest, least painful routes to significant greenhouse gas reductions. Even a modest consumer shift—10 percent of current sales—to the most energy efficient products could have a considerable impact on climate change by eliminating the release of 100 million metric tons of carbon-equivalent gases each year.



© LUTING HUANG/WWF-CHINA

Climate Savers

The Volvo Group has become the world's first vehicle manufacturer to join WWF's Climate Savers Programme, and commits to reduce the CO₂-emissions from vehicles manufactured between 2009 and 2014 by 13 million tons – equal to Sweden's annual CO₂ emissions during a three month period. Climate Savers is a unique initiative mobilizing more than 20 well-known companies to cut their CO₂ emissions in absolute terms and lead on the issue of climate change, and position the company to lead its own industry sector in the reduction of greenhouse gases. As a Climate Saver, Volvo commits to cut emissions in truck manufacture and their use and develop new truck models – one with 20 percent less fuel consumption and one powered by renewable gas.



© VOLVO

The Energy Report

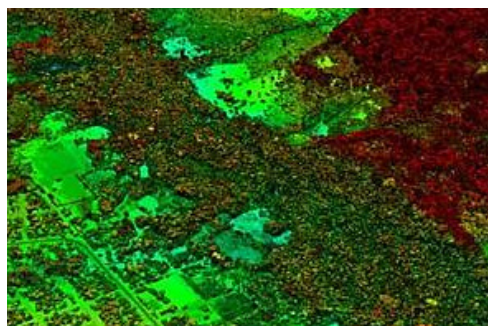
WWF's new Energy Report - to be launched in February 2011 aims to spark and catalyze a debate about how the world can achieve WWF's vision of meeting 100 percent of global energy needs by 2050 from highly-efficient and sustainable renewable energy sources. The Energy Report will be presented in two sections: Part A with WWF's vision of 100 percent renewable Energy explained, and our key messages; and Part B, the technical scenario report by Ecofys providing the main substantive content for the report. As well as the most ambitious and detailed global scenario produced to date, The Energy Report summaries choices and challenges to be faced in realizing a global future powered by 100 percent renewable energy.



© CHRIS MARTIN BARR / WWF-CANON

Mapping carbon emissions from forest loss

A new approach to develop high resolution maps of the carbon held in tropical forests will help protect climate and biodiversity. Developed by the Carnegie Institute, it combines satellite imagery, airborne, laser-based technology (LiDAR) and ground plot data to inexpensively quantify the carbon stored in forests with an unmatched accuracy. Used with WWF in Peru's Madre de Dios forest, this showed that emissions from forest degradation, due to fires and logging, are higher than expected by as much as a third of the total emissions. Accurately mapping forest carbon will assist projects to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), a mechanism to compensate developing countries for improved forest management reducing emissions from forest loss.



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PEOPLE

Perhaps WWF's greatest strength is its people, the staff and officers who together strive for a living planet, and wherever possible we should recognise this priceless asset. Similarly, the recognition of the leaders and champions who are playing key roles outside WWF to achieve conservation success and sustainable development is a powerful opportunity to promote conservation. By highlighting these champions for the environment, WWF recognises their contribution, empowering, encouraging and building links, profiling conservation success and, above all, showing what can be achieved and inspiring others to take up the challenge to secure a living planet.

Anti-poaching ranger awarded top WWF honour

Anatoly Belov, a long-time Russian anti-poaching ranger working on the frontlines of protecting tigers has been awarded the 2010 WWF Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal.

Belov has been active in anti-poaching activities in Southwestern Primorsky province on the Russia-China border for 22 years, and his efforts have been crucial in protecting the endangered Amur tiger.

"This is a great honour that will truly support our work to save the magnificent Amur tiger,"

Belov said. "I hope this award also inspires others to support the men and women around the world who risk their lives protecting wild tigers from poachers."

More...



© WWF-RUSSIA

Women Heroes - Lucy Aquino

Lucy Aquino, WWF Paraguay Country Office

Director, was invited to participate in an international conference in Washington, US, in October, focusing on "Women Heroes of Global Conservation" hosted by the Alliance for Global Conservation – a partnership of CI, Pew, TNC, WCS and WWF.

Other guests included Dr. Wangari Maathai, founder of Kenya's Green Belt Movement. Lucy was selected for this honour, including a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for her 10-year campaign to save Paraguay's Atlantic Forest. A long-standing moratorium on forest conversion to soy and the legislation developed through this campaign not only benefits the biodiversity of Paraguay, but also provides a more hopeful future for the indigenous communities living in the forest.



© WWF PARAGUAY

Leader for a Living Planet - Shanghai Mayor

WWF recognised the Mayor of Shanghai, Mr. Han Zheng, with a Leaders for a Living Planet award in May at the start of the Shanghai Expo.

The award recognized his leadership in improving the city's local environment and setting the course for its development as a low-carbon mega-city – promoting low carbon development, green commuting and protection of water resources and coastal zones, and showcasing these at the Expo which closed end October. China's biggest and most developed city, situated on the Yangtze estuary, and home to 20 million people, Shanghai aims to become a flagship of sustainable development and a model for other rapidly developing cities in the Yangtze River Basin, in China, and worldwide.



© ZHENG CHEN

ON THE HORIZON

Tropical forest summit

The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has invited Heads of State of countries in the world's other two major tropical forest blocs – Amazon and Borneo/Indonesia – to a high level summit in June 2011. The summit will include meetings of COMIFAC, the forest ministers of the Congo Basin, and of Congo Basin Heads of State to reflect on progress since the Yaoundé Summit in 1999 which inspired the regional commitment to protect and wisely manage the forests and freshwater ecosystems of the Congo. The Heads of State summit of the world's three largest tropical forest blocs will then share lessons learned on transboundary cooperation, combating illegal logging, and promotion of REDD+ initiatives.



© OLIVIER VAN BOGAERT / WWF-CANON

Summit for the Himalayas

In October 2011, supported by WWF's Living Himalayas Initiative, the government of Bhutan will host a summit of the four eastern Himalayan countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal – to review the impacts of climate change in the region, as well as future scenarios and implications, and explore cooperative actions to protect vulnerable freshwater and forest ecosystems with the aim to maintain ecosystem services such as freshwater flows.



© STEVE MORGAN / WWF-CANON

WWF 50th Anniversary

On Friday, 29 April 2011, the WWF Network will celebrate WWF's 50th Anniversary – the date in 1961 when the Morges Manifesto was signed calling for an international conservation organization to mobilize massive resources around the world to fund global conservation priorities. Led by WWF's Conservation and Communication & Marketing Committees, planning is underway to mark this auspicious anniversary, through a global communication campaign around 50 of WWF's major conservation challenges – past, present, and future – which will also pay tribute to WWF's supporters, partners, and members.



© CHRIS MARTIN BAHR / WWF-CANON

WWF in numbers

100

More than 100 new protected areas covering 4,2 million hectares plus commitments to establish a further 11,5 million ha have been achieved through WWF's Protected Areas for a Living Planet initiative over three years across five ecoregions in Europe, Eurasia and West Africa

1,200

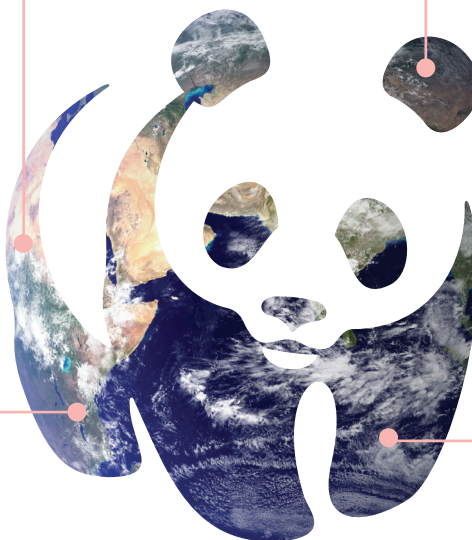
Since 2000 1,200 species new to science have been discovered in the Amazon – a rate of one new species every three days

1ST

WWF helped achieve the world's first high seas marine protected areas – a vital first step towards the protection and sustainable management of the 70% of the planet's surface outside national jurisdiction

3,200

Wild tiger numbers have almost halved in the past decade, down to 3,200 – WWF is committed to double tiger numbers by the next Year of the Tiger in 2022



Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.panda.org

Conservation highlights is produced bi-annually by Rob Soutter (rsoutter@wwfint.org) and Stéphane Mauris (smauris@wwfint.org) in WWF International's Conservation Division. Conservation highlights can be found on WWF's intranet.

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