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WWFolio Bolivia

For a living planet

Living

Editorial

Solidarity and creativity during difficult times

These past three months have been marked by suffering and bad news. The floods that affected a considerable part of the eastern portion of the country spread pain and death among families, but at the same time demonstrated how badly we are treating our natural environment and, unfortunately, how poorly prepared we are to face situations of crisis caused by natural disasters. However it also highlighted the solidarity which tends to emerge during these types of circumstances. WWF joined efforts to assist victims and collected funds generously donated by WWF employees both in Bolivia and the United States, allowing us to donate an important quantity of medications to the victims in Beni.

This quarter, however, also had its good moments, beginning with the publication of a book to our presentation in the 2007 Expoforest. WWF's support contributed to research and edition efforts for the publication of the book Collections of the Palms of Bolivia, a book that will contribute to the knowledge about a family of plants that is not only widely distributed throughout the country but also of great use. Our contribution to this book gave us the honor of writing its prologue. Likewise, the official presentation in Puerto Quijarro of the educational curriculum contextualized for the Pantanal, attracted countless participants and became a milestone in the educational process initiated by WWF in the Pantanal towards the end of the 1990's. The Curriculum, which offers the region tools for a formal education yet adapted to the local conditions and potentials, has also been accepted by the Ministry of Education, as well as ratified by the departmental educational authorities.

The presentation of WWF's Cities for Forests initiative deserves a special mention. It was presented through the Un Árbol (One Tree) Bolivia project during the 2007 Expoforest with an exhibit of more than 200 pieces of art made from a certified Cariniana estrellensis tree donated by La Chonta wood company, and for which more than 70 artists contributed their talent and efforts. The message transmitted to more than ten thousand people will, without a doubt, help understand the value of trees and forests as well as the role each one of us plays through simple decisions regarding the purchase of forest products and how our decisions can contribute to sound forest management and conservation. The positive response from the public was evidenced in their purchasing of some of the pieces from Un Árbol Bolivia which were up for sale to raise funds for the victims of the recent floods in Bolivia. This gave a special significance to the project because art, conservation and industry joined a social effort aimed

at helping those in times of need. Lastly, the support provided by WWF, through the Bolivia Forest Trade Network (FTN), for the participation of national producers and buyers as well as foreigners in the business roundtable organized during the Expoforest, complete our institutional effort to bring people and forests together through market mechanisms.

We greet our readers with a spirit of solidarity and creativity that has helped face what otherwise were unbearable times for many innocent people.

Adolfo Moreno
Conservation Director

Living Pantanal

Curriculum diversification for the Bolivian Pantanal

Contextualized educational curriculum is implemented during 2007

The experience gained by WWF Bolivia during eight years in the area of education in the Pantanal provided the foundation for a joint effort with its partners, Proceso Educational Services and Friends of the Noel Kempff Mercado Museum Foundation (Fuamu), to develop the educational curriculum for the Pantanal ecoregion. The curriculum will introduce grade school children to concepts regarding the environment and conservation, yet respecting the Educational Reform which "identifies the need for natural sciences to be a transversal in formal education." The Municipality of Puerto Quijarro was the host this past March for the launching of the textbook guide for the teachers. Its distribution to the teachers was carried out by WWF and Fuamu, in collaboration with the Departmental Educational Service (Seduca) from the Prefecture for the Department of Santa Cruz and the Municipal Government of Puerto Quijarro. This material was developed with ample participation and adapted to the context of the region. It is also technically guaranteed since teachers from the region actively participated under the guidance of Fuamu (its area of expertise is in biology and conservation) and Proceso (expertise in educational issues).



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Children in a school in Puerto Quijarro.

This innovative experience has been approved by the Ministry of Education and by the Prefecture for the Department of Santa Cruz through Administrative Resolution N° 639-2007 issued by Seduca.

WWF hopes this text becomes an example demonstrating that education can also recognize, respect and value the natural characteristics of each region, emphasizing its conservation and sustainable development.

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LIVING PUBLICATIONS

Curriculum diversification for the Bolivian Pantanal

This publication is a tool to support teachers at the primary school level working in the Pantanal region. It provides relevant and contextualized information, activities and projects that make a meaningful learning process possible, focusing in large part on life itself. The publication also made possible the diversification of the national curriculum, both in terms of classroom planning as well the overall development of the schools themselves.

It is presented in three volumes, one for each primary grade level, and the objective is that children between the ages of 6 and 13 explore their environment allowing them to build knowledge and attitudes leading to critical thinking regarding practices related to the use of the environment, its conservation and sustainable development for the Bolivian Pantanal ecoregion.

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Living Amazon

Participatory effort produces Strategic Protection Plan for the Iténez Protected Area

WWF Bolivia, with funds from the Moore Foundation, supported the development and implementation of a Strategic Protection Plan for the Itenez Protected Area (PA).

The objective of this tool is to have clear guidelines that will allow the park guards to carry out their control and surveillance activities in the Itenez PA, as well as optimize their time and resources for these activities, and, this way, improve final results. The following is a partial list of what the Plan contemplates:

- A protection map for control and surveillance, including zoning details for the Itenez PA
- An action plan for different types of threats
- Guidelines for the development of a Strategic Plan for Signs and another one for Environmental Education
- A plan for carrying out patrols per camp and season (rainy and dry season)
- A monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the Strategic Protection Plan
- Profile of the park guards brigade in which their duties and responsibilities are defined
- Explanation of the internal norms regarding human resources, equipment and materials belonging to the protected area, among others.

The development of this tool has been the result of a participatory effort on behalf of the park guards, Iténez PA's Management Committee (representatives from local communities), Decentralized Protected Areas Unit (UDAP) from the Beni Prefecture, WWF technical staff and administrative personnel from the protected area.

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► Oricore, Iténez, Beni

The Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve: data regarding its phytodiversity

By: Saúl Altamirano Azurduy; Botanist-ecologist; Monte Verde NGO (Pando); National Forest Herbarium Martín Cárdenas (Cochabamba); jobaltamirano@yahoo.es

This document is the result of the need to establish a reference point that defines the conservation strategies and, at the same time, guides, throughout time, via a base line for biodiversity, the Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve Management Plan. Below is information on some of the species regarding phytodiversity, ecological importance, bio-geographic data and conservation status.

Why Bruno Racua?

Bolivia is a country with high biodiversity and considered as one of the world's Hotspots with approximately 20,000 species of vascular plants (Ibisch & Beck 2003) and a hundred ecosystems, some of which, in some cases, are considered unique worldwide (Killen, et al.1993; Navarro & Maldonado, 2002). In the northeastern portion of the Department of Pando, Province Federico Román, a unique geologic system of pre-cambrian origin occurs, extending from northeastern Santa Cruz and emerging in a discontinuous manner along the Bruno Racua Reserve in lateritic rock and gneiss rock. The vegetation is unique because of its different floristic combinations in comparison with the rest of Pando, such as the forests with abundant Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*) and Cusi (*Attalea speciosa*), varzea forests found on higher grounds with poorly drained soil inundated by mineralized water from the Madre de Dios River, the presence of poorly drained systems on white sand sartenejals and which were thought to occur only in Peru and Brazil, yet are now confirmed to also exist in Bolivia (ecological disjunction), forests with both clear and mixed waters influence that extend along small streams and flow into the Abuná and Madre de Dios Rivers and considered very original from a floristic point of view and not fully studied (several new records for Bolivia). Added to this, we must emphasize that although in Brazil this unit extends through border areas, it has also been severely impacted and transformed into pasture areas, which are very fragmented and discontinuous all along its extension.



Diversity of ecosystems, species and conservation status

Four ecological systems are represented in the Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve: i) terra firme forests, ii) moderately well drained forests influenced by white waters, iii) poorly drained sclerophyll medium forests found on sartenejal white sands and iv) forests influenced by both black and mixed waters. Within these systems two climatically determined communities were identified, six determined by wet soil types, three by dry soil types and five successional communities (high landscape heterogeneity). One thousand one-hundred twenty four vascular plant species were registered distributed among 114 families and 450 genera, of which 27 are new registrations for Bolivia, and two new for science belonging to the Rutaceae and Arecaceae families. The most important families regarding the number of species are: Fabaceae (127 species), Moraceae (60 species) and Rubiaceae (58 species), with the genus of *Bactris* (23 species), *Ficus* (21 species) and *Licania* (14 species) as the most important.

The Arecaceae family also stands out with its great richness in terms of species, contributing 48 species of the 110 species registered for Bolivia (Moreno & Moreno 2006), and thus making it the area with highest diversity for this family in all of Bolivia; added to this, there are two important bio-geographic registrations: *Geonoma trigloch* (second time collected for Bolivia) and *Bactris* sp. nov., mentioned by Alverson 2003, currently called *Bactris elegans*, poorly collected. In both cases these are small sized palm trees with a very specific distribution restricted to the Southwest Amazon. Another family with interesting data is *Lecythydaceae* with 18 species, of which two are new national registrations: *Couratari multiflora* and *Lecythis* sp. In addition, 3 species of this family have been added for Bolivia (draft checklist for Bolivia). The flora corresponds mostly to the bio-geographic provinces of Acre and Madre de Dios, with some separate elements from the Paranense Brazilian provinces (*Licania araneosa*, *Guadua paraguayana*); Madeira and Tapajoz (*Jacaranda campinae* and *Sclerolobium tinctorium*) and Loreto (*Parkia balslevii*, *Dalbergia subcymosa*).

The main threats faced by the Reserve have been identified and are related mainly to the **population density** (of lesser impact), **river access** (main source of impact on behalf of community members from the border area), **land access** (strong impact by road that joins the communities of Nueva Esperanza and Fortaleza del Abuná, cutting through the western part of the Reserve) and **forestry activity** (approved management plan in the community of Nueva Esperanza; its extraction area covers 16,553 ha). Regarding the conservation status of the flora, only 10 species have some sort of threat category, three are proposed as a conservation priority due to over exploitation (*Cedrelinga cataneiformis*, *Peltogyne heterophylla* and *Eschweilera ovata*) and three due to their restricted distribution (*Lecythis* sp, *Bactris trigloch* and *Spathelia* sp. nov.).

This article was prepared by one of the researchers hired by our partner, the NGO Monte Verde, within the elaboration of the Management Plan for the Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve. The following text is literally reproduced from the original content offered by its author.



Living Forests

Successful exhibition of more than 200 FSC pieces from Un Árbol

The conservation and sustainable use of forests with the participation of those who live in the city has been the premise to carry forward the environmental awareness campaign Un Árbol (One Tree) Bolivia, promoted by WWF and under which the work of 65 artists, architects and designers was exhibited in commitment with sustainable forest management.

The 210 pieces produced from just one tree, a *Cariniana estrellensis* extracted from a sustainable forest concession and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), were displayed during the 2007 Expoforest, the most important specialized forest products exhibition and trade fair in Bolivia. The pieces were also offered for sale and the funds generated will be donated to the flood victims in Bolivia.

“The Un Árbol Bolivia campaign seeks to integrate art, conservation and the wood industry, as well as generating massive awareness among the national population regarding the importance of sustainable use of our forest resources and the role each one of us plays in conserving them”, pointed out Valia Carvalho, Coordinator for the Un Árbol Bolivia Project.

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WWF promotes this campaign as part of its Cities for Forests initiative, that seeks to commit companies with social responsibility as well as local and regional governments with the conservation of our forests through their adoption of Responsible Purchase Policies regarding forest products. By doing this, these companies and governments would commit, in the medium term, to buying all their forest products from forests that are under management and / or certified; an excellent way to contribute to preserving forests, which by the way provide us with water, clean air, stable climate and fertile soil, as well as many other services that are all too easily forgotten.

Four pieces from Un Árbol Bolivia receive special recognition

The “Honorable mention for creativity” was awarded by the Latin-American Design Association (ALADI) for 4 pieces from the Un Árbol Project. The selection of the pieces was made by the President for ALADI, Mr. Paolo Bergomi, who visited the Expoforest.

The pieces selected were: a solid rocking chair made by Complemento, a bicycle made by David Antelo, a woman's outfit (skirt and top) made by Marión Macedo and the books from Carmen Bilbao. Bolivia became a member of ALADI two months ago through the formation of the Bolivian Institute for Furniture, headed by Ms. Carla Gianella. It is expected that next year they will launch in Bolivia the “2008 Design Exhibition”, and we hope this initiative goes along with the tendency to use FSC certified wood for creating its pieces.



Forestry twinning between Barcelona and Santa Cruz de la Sierra

The 5th Expoforest was the ideal setting for the Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra to receive a letter of invitation from WWF Spain, on behalf of the City Hall of Barcelona, to participate on May 15th in the Construmat Fair – the largest construction trade fair in Spain and the second largest in Europe – in order to sign an agreement for forestry twinning between the City Hall of Barcelona and the Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Barcelona already initiated the steps for the collaboration with Santa Cruz de la Sierra, so during Construmat the “Twinning Agreement” becomes official and thus supports the implementation of the Responsible Purchase Policy for forest products that Barcelona already signed with WWF Spain in 2005 and that Santa Cruz de la Sierra is about to sign with WWF Bolivia.

This twinning will progressively bring closer both cities regarding forestry issues and commercial contacts for FSC certification. We should remember that both municipalities have adopted guidelines towards FSC certification; on one hand, Santa Cruz with Bolivia's worldwide leadership of 2.2 million ha of certified tropical native forest and its self proclamation in April 2006 as the World Capital for Certification of Native Tropical Forests; on the other hand, Barcelona through the signing of the Responsible Purchase Policy under the Cities for Forests initiative promoted by WWF Spain.

The agreement is initially for three years with a possibility for extension.

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Santa Cruz de la Sierra Municipality will sign a Responsible Purchase Policy for forest products within WWF Bolivia's initiative Cities for Forests, as Barcelona City Hall has already done with WWF Spain. Through this policy, both municipalities commit to the conservation and sustainable development of the forests requiring that all forest products purchased on their behalf as part of routine acquisitions gradually begin coming from forests under management and / or FSC certified.



▼
From right to left: Roger Landivar, Director WWF Bolivia, Gabriela Ichaso, Municipal Government of Santa Cruz, Felix Romero, FTN Spain Coordinator, Adolfo Moreno, Conservation Director WWF Bolivia

Apcob and WWF support community – company coming together

Through our partner Apcob, WWF once again supported, as in previous Expoforests, the participation of communities that carry out sustainable forest management. During this third version of the Business Roundtable, a long term contract was possible with the Monteverde TCO (Indigenous Communal Land), in which it will provide logs to the companies of Mardibar and INPA Parket, for an annual amount of approximately US\$ 94,000 and a volume of 5,000 m3. The perspectives for sale are for 5 years with a revision of prices every two years.

This formal business negotiation for buying and selling is a result of the work that Apcob has been developing with support from WWF through a project that seeks to bring communities and companies closer together. It is also important to highlight that, as a result of this initiative, seven communities that perform sustainable forest management will benefit from this commercial alliance.

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Errata

In the 8th edition of the WWFolio Bolivia, published in January 2007, under the article entitled “Promoting sustainable business between communities and companies” (page 13) we accidentally omitted mentioning our partners Cadefor and Apcob as the institutions responsible for supporting community forest management and the respective market links.



FSC certification for the Cururú indigenous community

The growth of certified forest operations in Bolivia and the consolidation of the voluntary forest certification model have incorporated new local forest actors (indigenous communal lands, peasant communities, local associations of forest users, small private land owners), and has promoted forest certification in becoming a commercial tool that allows to improve forest management in a qualitative (making financial management transparent, reducing operational costs), and quantitative manner (economic recognition on behalf of the market for the effort expended, greater opportunities to include and introduce new species in the market), in order to achieve greater income that leads to a fairer social treatment through responsible social, environmental and economic management of their forests.

An example of responsible use of forest resources comes from the Cururú Indigenous Forest Organization (OFI), which has a General Forest Management Plan covering 26,4208.38 ha. During its seven years of experience in forest management, Cururú has been able to improve the standard of living of its community members. Convinced they can achieve even more, they see FSC certification has an opportunity to increase – with greater added value and better prices – their sales with species such as Ura crepitans, which exceeds 50% of their annual wood supply.

The certification process dates from January 2006 when, after a pre-certification evaluation, bottlenecks in the General Forest Management Plan were identified and which subsequently were attended to during 2006.



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► Sustainable forest management in the community of Cururú

In October of that year, the Cururú OFI received a formal evaluation on behalf of Smartwood / Rainforest Alliance, and during the 2007 Expoforest exhibit and trade fair, Cururú and the company INPA Parket received the FSC certification.

The NGO Cadefor (Amazonian Center for Sustainable Forest Enterprise), the Project Bolfor II, the company INPA Parket, the Bolivian Forestry Chamber and WWF Bolivia all worked together in making this process possible and successful.

WWF congratulates the community of Cururú on this new endeavour!

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First GFTN Business Mission in Bolivia

The Bolivia Forest and Trade Network (FTN) led the first Business Mission of Buyers during the Business Roundtable for the Bolivian Wood Industry organized by the Bolivian Forestry Chamber during the 2007 Expoforest exhibit and trade fair in Santa Cruz (March 21st to 24th).

The FTNs from 30 member countries of the GFTN were invited to this Business Mission. The FTNs for Spain and Belgium responded to this invitation participating through their coordinators Mr. Félix Romero and Mr. Bart Holvoet, respectively.

Ms. María del Carmen Carreras, Coordinator for the Bolivia FTN, emphasized the importance of these types of missions since the main work of the Bolivia FTN is to link the national supply with the demand of other countries. What better way to explore new business opportunities than through a specific event such as the Expoforest?

With this activity the GFTN took the first step for future links that will continue in Construmat, the largest construction trade fair in Spain, scheduled for next May and for which the Spain FTN will be organizing – in collaboration with the Bolivia FTN and other FTNs in Europe – a Business Roundtable that will facilitate the international meeting between producers and responsible consumers of FSC certified forest products.

“These type of meetings are fundamental and very useful for the GFTN since they allow us to become stronger as an FTN by creating market link opportunities between the certified supply or in process of certification with the responsible demand”, stated Félix Romero, FTN Spain Coordinator (WWF Group 2000).

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FTN negotiations



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FTN negotiations

Certified wood opens doors to markets in the north

Aiming to link the Bolivian certified wood offer or that in process of FSC certification with the responsible demand from international companies, WWF Bolivia, through its Bolivia Forest and Trade Network (FTN), organized the Buyers Business Mission made up of European companies that are a part of the GFTN and Bolivian companies participating in the Bolivia FTN.

The participants and applicants for the Bolivia FTN are the following companies: La Chonta Woods, SumaPacha, Aserradero San Luis, Cimal IMR, Ecolegno, Jolyka, Mabet, Multiagro, Anatina Toys, Taller Hermanos Guasase (Guasase Brothers Workshop) and Taller Artesanal Bolivia (Bolivia Handicraft Workshop). These companies took advantage of the Business Mission to display their products while at the same time enter into business negotiations.

As a result, these companies, which are committed to sustainable forest management, have approached Fortim Trading and Vogel companies from Belgium, Clercx from the Netherlands, Osma Grupo J. from Spain and Yingbing Nature Woods from China, among others. Future editions of the WWFolio will offer further details regarding these negotiations.

The artisans from Taller Hermanos Guasase and Taller Artesanal Bolivia, who work with FSC certified wood, met with the Spanish organization Copade, which offered the following:

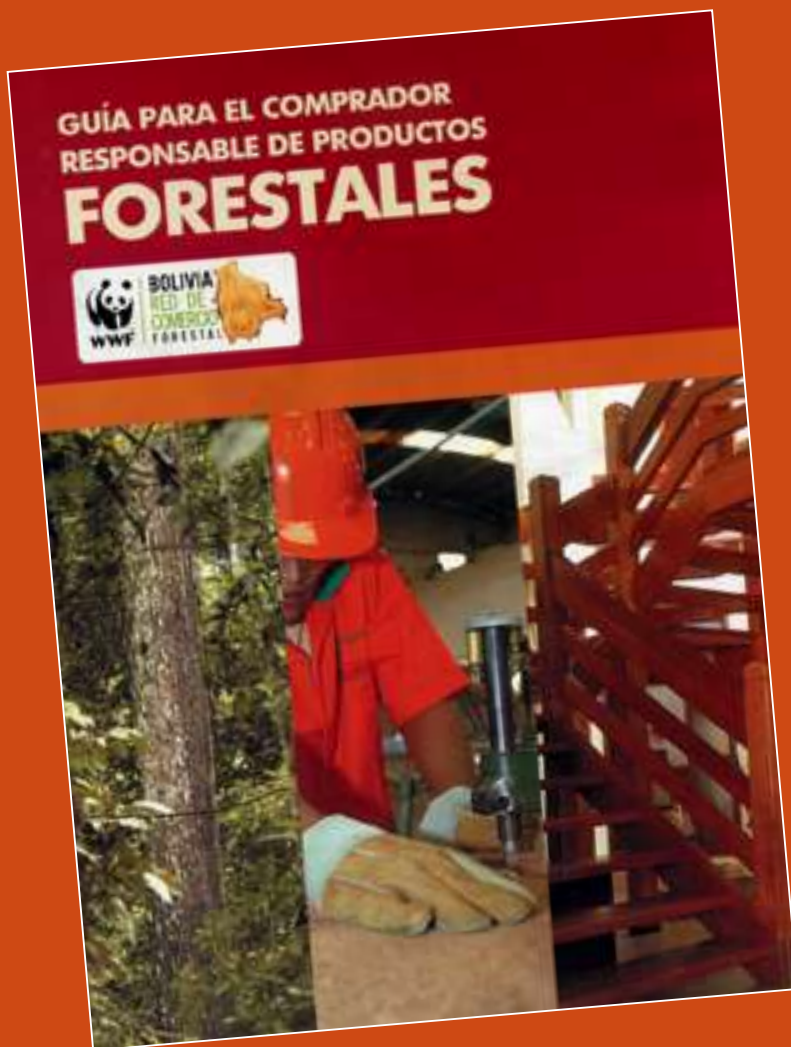
- Revision of the workshop standards in order to adjust to international standards for fair trade

- Training in design to include new and innovative products that adapt to the requirements of the Spanish market
- Possibility of establishing a store in La Paz to sell their products
- Facilitating a rotating fund (awarded by Copade) for small companies and aimed at promoting their production
- Possible help in future trade fairs, among others.

The manager of the Taller Artesanal Bolivia, Mr. Ciro Dorado, was very positive about formalizing this collaboration and praises the work carried forward by the Bolivia FTN since it assists in the introduction of handicraft products in the external markets which appreciate FSC products.

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LIVING PUBLICATIONS

Responsible Buyers Guide for Forest Products

(published in Spanish only)

Hoping to promote responsible consumption of forest products that are either of legal origin or come from forests under management and / or certified, WWF Bolivia developed a guide targeting interested entities (social responsibility companies, regional and local governments), inviting them to join WWF Bolivia's initiative Cities for Forests, and, in this way, adopt a Responsible Purchase Policy for its forest products. This would also contribute to the sustainable use and conservation of Bolivia's forests.

This Guide intends to facilitate companies, institutions and other actors linked to the consumption and trade of forest products with an understanding of the different trustworthy sources for supplying forest products, as well as the means of verification and recognition of its origin, allowing - in a gradual manner - to reduce from its chain of supply those forest products forthcoming from doubtful sources (illegal logging).

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More Life

Presentation of the publication “Collections of the Palms of Bolivia”

With a considerable audience made up of the general public the book “Collections of the Palms of Bolivia”, was presented by its authors Mr. Luis René and Mr. Oscar Moreno Suárez. The book, which received financial support from WWF Bolivia for research and edition, represents the most complete synopsis in terms of current knowledge of a plant family in which Bolivia is one of the most diverse worldwide and to which an important percentage of its population has a close relationship of dependence. Edited by the Foundation Friends of Nature (FAN), this extensive book (published in Spanish only) of almost 600 pages is elegantly presented with illustrations and scientific content and is of great pride to those who, like WWF, contributed to its publication. The prologue was written by Mr. Adolfo Moreno, WWF Bolivia's Conservation Director and nephew to one of the authors.

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Brothers and authors of the book, Mr. Luis R. and Oscar I. Moreno Suárez

Living *Finances*

In the October 2006 edition of the WWFolio, we informed of the mixed role of WWF Bolivia as a donor and implementer. We would like to take this opportunity to expand upon the role of donor in terms of partner institutions. WWF Bolivia provides these institutions, through grants, with funding for projects which are of common interest to both the partner organization and WWF, and which also comply with WWF donor requirements.

See the graphics on the next pages.





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Sunset in the Bolivian Pantanal

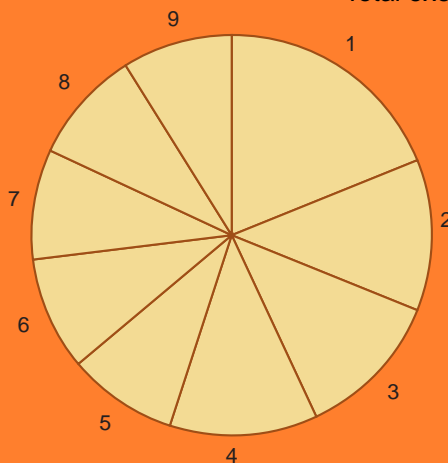
During fiscal year 2006 (July 2005 to June 2006), WWF Bolivia worked with 30 partner institutions in Bolivia, investing US\$ 1,844,000. Of these partners:

- 9 executed above US\$ 100,000 each
- 10 executed above US\$ 20,000 each, and
- 11 executed below this last amount.

Meet some of WWF Bolivia's partners:

Partners that executed more than US\$ 100,000 each

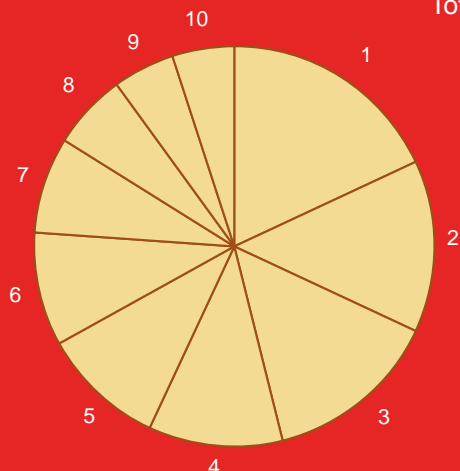
Total executed: US\$ 1,391,000



1. Faunagua 19%
2. SNV 12%
3. Prefectura del Beni 12%
4. Cideder 12%
5. Fuamu 9%
6. Monte Verde 9%
7. Iphae 9%
8. WWF Brasil 9%
9. MUAFB 9%

Partners that executed more than US \$ 20,000 each

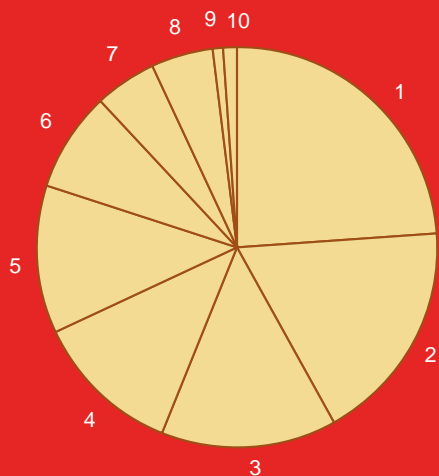
Total executed: US\$ 379.000



1. Fundación José Manuel Pando 18%
2. Coinacapa 14%
3. Sernap San Matías 14%
4. Armonia 11%
5. IRD 10%
6. Infocal 9%
7. IBIF 8%
8. Fundforma 6%
9. SBDA 5%
10. Cibapa 5%

Partners that executed less than US \$ 20,000 each

Total executed: US\$ 82.000



1. Apcob 24%
2. Sernap 18%
3. Cides 14%
4. CFV 12%
5. Cepad 12%
6. Rema 8%
7. Fundesnap 5%
8. Acopando 5%
9. Distrital Educación Puerto Suarez 1%
10. GM San Matías 1%



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Hot peppers

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WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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