

GttE No. & Summary	GttE Commitment & Status Updated: 4th April 2014
1996	WWF's Gift to the Earth (GttE) programme was launched in late 1996 as part of WWF's Living Planet Campaign, an initiative designed to make WWF a more effective campaigning organization and better able to achieve globally significant conservation success at a scale which addresses the severity of the threats facing the planet
1 – Creation of a protected area (PA) network totalling 70 million ha in Russia's Sakha Republic, representing 30% of the territory	Achieved. The Republic of Sakha has created 45mill ha of new protected areas (PAs) and upgraded protection of 25-million ha of existing PAs. This PA network ensures the protection of undisturbed expanses of taiga and boreal forest, and includes 80 percent of the breeding grounds of the endangered Siberian crane, while protecting other species including one of the world's largest reindeer populations, numbering over 100,000 individuals. Not only was this the world's first Gift to the Earth (GttE), for many years this was also the largest in terms of area committed for protection. The Sakha Gift to the Earth is the single most important contribution to WWF's efforts to establish a viable, representative PA network in the Russian Arctic.
1997	
2 – Implementation of a conservation programme for the 1-million ha Pechora-Ilych Biosphere Reserve in Russia's Republic of Komi	Achieved. The 1-million ha Pechora-Ilych Biosphere Reserve is now well-managed and protects one of Europe's most extensive unbroken pristine old-growth forests. The GttE also provided a boost for sustainable forest management. Russia's first High Conservation Value Forest inventory followed the announcement and mapped both the most biologically important areas to be set aside, and the areas that can be sensitively harvested. A further one million ha have been allocated for the model forest project, and political support for Forest Stewardship Council certification is growing, which is encouraging other Russian territories to adopt a combination of forest protection and sustainable management.
3 – Protected area coverage to be increased to 10 percent of Russia's Khabarovsk Region	Mostly achieved. In 15 years, 16 committed areas were created with total area of 1,799,228 ha. About 8% of the Khabarovsk Province's territory now under protection, providing shelter for key threatened species such as the Amur (Siberian) tiger, the Oriental stork, and Steller's sea eagle. New PAs include the 429,000ha Anuisky National Park, together with ecological corridors linking the PAs, and enabling wildlife to disperse safely. This initiative is the first to be based on the Econet plan to create PA networks throughout Russia. Another 1 million ha of new PAs is listed in ecological programme approved by new Governor of province for period till 2020.
4 – Development of protected areas and bison reintroduction in Russia's Orel Region	Achieved. Since reintroduction, the bison herd has become free-ranging and self-sustaining, increasing to more than 150 animals. To support the European bison, the habitat is being protected and restored, highlighted by the creation of the Orlovskoye Polesye National Park. The bison reintroduction and protected area creation has given tourism and job creation a major boost, and is a welcome symbol for local people.
5 – Protected areas coverage to be increased to 46,9 million ha or 30 percent of Mongolia by 2030	Partially achieved. Mongolia contains vast areas of Siberian coniferous taiga forest and the world's most extensive prairie grasslands. In response to the GttE commitment Mongolia's protected area coverage has increased to 20,9-million ha, representing close to 50 percent of the original commitment. The new protected areas help conserve species such as snow leopard, argali sheep, and Mongolian gazelle. Further progress is hindered by proposals for exploration and exploitation of oil and minerals and by dam construction for hydropower.

6 – Declaration of seven new Ramsar sites in Hungary.	Achieved, with good management of the 30,000ha of Ramsar sites and cooperation between government, private owners and NGOs. There is potential for a further 300,000 ha of new forest PAs.
7 – Protected area coverage in Georgia to be increased from 2 to 20 % of the country	Achieved. More than 620,000 ha of new protected areas have been added, tripling the PA coverage to 8.9 percent. In addition a further 1.1 million ha of forests, representing 15,7 percent of the country, is now protected under the Forest Code. Announcement of the Georgian GttE continues to build important communications with government and development agencies.
8 – Creation of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to independently certify well-managed fisheries worldwide.	Achieved. This initiative has established standards that help determine whether a fishery is environmentally sustainable, and provide customers seeking to buy responsibly with an eco-label they can trust. Based on the success of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the equivalent standards for well managed forests, the MSC is now an effective independent organization which has certified about 200 fisheries worldwide, with many more undergoing certification. Unilever, then a major player in the seafood industry, played a key role in establishing the MSC.
9 - Adoption of Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan protecting 1-million ha of Florida coral reef	Achieved. The sanctuary is larger than originally committed, and the GttE was a major impetus for development of the Water Quality Plan and especially the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Act, essential for rebuilding the health of the region's coastal waters and reefs. However, despite having achieved the original commitment, many of the major indicators of reef health are still, or even increasingly negative, mostly the result of external factors such as fisheries management and climate change.

12 – Commitment to create 10 new protected areas in France	Achieved. Several protected areas totaling 540,000ha have been created, including the Chérine National Park which has helped build cooperation with local fishing and shooting communities to develop sustainable management and awareness.
13 – Best Western Hotels (Denmark) pledges to reduce water and energy use by 25 %	Fully achieved. Consumption of energy and water reduced by 32 percent over the three year period. This achievement helped demonstrate the economic advantages of reducing consumption, and was highlighted at a Best Western Hotels annual meeting in Lisbon in 1999.
14 – Full protection to be achieved for 200,000ha within Nepal's Kanchenjunga region	Mostly achieved. Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest peak, rises to 8,586 metres, and dominates a mountain system that stretches from Nepal into China and India. The area includes important watersheds helping guarantee water quality and availability to millions of people in the plains below, and to wildlife such as the Himalayan black bear, red panda, and snow leopard. Following up the GttE pledge in July 1997, the Government of Nepal created the 1,650km ² Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) in recognition of the biological and cultural significance of the region. In 1998, the KCA was enlarged to 2,035km ² and management of this huge protected area has been handed over to the KCA Management Council. The GttE has helped mobilize funding, and develop the initiative across national boundaries into India's Sikkim State.
15 – Protected area coverage of Russia's Taiymr Republic to increase to 7-million ha, representing 20 % of the state	Partially achieved. The Taimyr Peninsula is the northernmost point of the Eurasian continent, and contains the largest unbroken stretch of tundra landscape. Dense carpets of mosses, lichens and grasses feed the 700,00-strong wild reindeer herd -- the largest in the world. Hundreds of thousands of waterbirds nest around the peninsula which is also home to about 20,000 polar bears. In response to the pledge, only the 288,000ha Brekhvskie Islands Zakaznik (sanctuary) has been created to date, taking total protected area coverage to 13 percent.
16 – Protected area coverage of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula to be increased to 31 percent of the territory	Mostly achieved. The Kamchatka peninsula is one of the world's truly special areas, hosting Europe's largest population of brown bears, the spawning grounds of Pacific salmon, breeding sites for Steller's sea eagle and, offshore, the highly endangered Pacific blue whale. Two protected areas (PAs) have been created, including the 500,000ha Kluchevskoy Nature Park, and total coverage now equals 30 percent. The Kluchevskaya Sopka, The highest active volcano in Eurasia is incorporated in the nature park.
17 – AEG to launch an appliance line 25 % more energy efficient	Achieved. Following on this, AEG further pledged to sell only cooling appliances that are in the highest category for energy efficiency. This pledge was also realized.
18 – Declaration of four new Ramsar sites in Turkey to protect wetlands of international importance	Achieved. The four priority sites were declared in 1998. The first, Uluabat Lake, hosts important breeding populations of waterbirds such as pygmy cormorant and Dalmatian pelican. WWF worked with the Environment Ministry and local authorities to develop management plans for the lakes. WWF won a court battle against the Culture Ministry which was attempting to downgrade protection status of the Gediz Delta, illustrating the value of the protection achieved. Following declaration of these four Ramsar sites, a National Wetlands Committee was created with all stakeholders represented, including WWF. In total, 12 Ramsar sites totaling more than 170,000ha have been created since the GttE announcement. The government declared a further 20 Ramsar sites in 2006.

19 – Protected area coverage to be increased in Russia's Khakasia Republic, and threatened species protected	Mostly achieved. As part of a national snow leopard protection programme, the 142,000ha Yaimka Lykovyh Reserve was created adjoining the Khakas Reserve, doubling the protected area to 274,000ha. Besides snow leopards, other key species such as Argali sheep, ibex, sable, Maral stags and reindeer benefit from the protected area at the junction of the Altai and Sayan mountains. Total area of PAs created in 1998-2013 is 242,000 ha of regional PAs and 396,100 ha of federal PAs
20 – In collaboration with WWF, the World Bank pledged to help create, by 2005, over 50-million ha of new protected areas, and certify 200 million ha of sustainably managed forest	Mostly achieved. The protected area (PA) commitment has been realized, with more than 50-million ha of new PAs created. The alliance with World Bank has been instrumental in leveraging some of the most high level and long term initiatives for PA creation, including the ARPA and Congo Basin initiatives which have together contributed more than 40-million ha of PAs. The sustainably managed forest target has proven more difficult. The World Bank adopted the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) principles as the standard for sustainable management. The area of FSC-certified forest reached 60-million ha by end 2005, against the target of 200-million ha, mostly in Europe and North America. The relatively modest increase in FSC-certified forest elsewhere highlights the challenges facing independent forest certification in countries where land ownership may be an issue and where legal and governmental frameworks are weak.
21 – Expansion of New Zealand's terrestrial protected area network	Fully achieved. A total of 200,000ha of rainforest were added as new protected areas in South Island, and the Fiordland National park was expanded by 45,000ha. WWF New Zealand is now working with the government to achieve a major increase in protection for New Zealand's rich marine environment
22 – Creation of Marine Park and education centre in Hong Kong	Fully achieved. Hong Kong plays a key role in marine conservation in the region, both in terms of the fisheries trade, and protection of marine biodiversity. With the help of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the 260-ha Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park and an education centre serve as a focus for further marine conservation efforts in Hong Kong. WWF Hong Kong (China) is urging the regional government to declare all Hong Kong waters as Fisheries Protection Areas, and all eastern waters as fisheries no-take zones.

23 – Increase protected area coverage of Russia’s Tyva Republic to 20 %	Mostly achieved. Four new PAs (1 federal and 4 regional) were created covering 490,900 ha. Important species such as snow leopard, musk antelope, reindeer and brown bear are now protected in the new PAs in the Tyva Republic. Together with the regional government, and an insurance company, WWF is helping develop an innovative scheme to compensate local herders for loss of livestock to snow leopard.
24 – Increase protected area coverage in Russia’s Republic of Bashkortostan by 1,9-million ha	Achieved. Located in the southwestern Urals, Bashkortostan is home to more than 280 bird species, including the rare black stork and osprey, 77 mammal species, 42 fish species and 20 different types of reptile and amphibian. Protected area (PA) coverage increased by 2,3-million ha, taking the total size of the PA network to 3,24-million ha, or 23 percent of the republic. Further PAs are planned to enlarge the network which includes steppe, broadleaf forests, mixed, pine and larch forests, fir taiga and mountain tundra. This was the first Russian region to adopt WWF’s concept for developing PA networks, now a model for use elsewhere.
25 – Enlarge the protected area network in Russia’s Altai Republic with new national parks	Strung like beads along the Katun River, the national parks of Altai are wrapped in the myths and legends of the towering altai peaks. The turquoise Katun stirs the imagination and has inspired tales of a fantastic country hidden at the river’s source – a kingdom of perfect enlightenment. Six new PAs (1 federal and 5 regional) were created covering 657,000 ha. Total protected area coverage now equals 3 percent of the Republic, helping ensure the future survival of species such as snow leopard, golden eagle, musk deer, Argali mountain sheep, Siberian ibex and Altai utar. Many sacred sites are included in the protected areas, helping preserve traditional lifestyles and knowledge.
26 – Gvt of Denmark commits to establish 750 MW of energy generation from wind turbines	Achieved. By 2008, 800MW has been installed offshore, out of a total wind-based energy generating capacity of 3,000MW, corresponding to 20 percent of Denmark’s energy needs.
27 – Protection of 600,000ha Minkebe rainforest in Gabon	Fully achieved. This is a vital link in a tri-national conservation area of barely disturbed lowland forest linking Gabon, Cameroon and Congo. These forests hold the largest surviving population of forest elephant, plus large numbers of gorilla, chimpanzee, leopard, forest buffalo and giant pangolin. Following the GtE event, Gabon established a national commission to follow up on the 1999 Yaoundé declaration, and a review of the country’s protected area priorities led to the creation of 13 new national parks in 2002. The 14-million ha tri-national protected area complex, called Tridom and representing 7,5 percent of the Congo basin forest area, was signed into existence at a summit of heads of state of Congo basin countries in Brazzaville in February 2005.
28 – Europe’s largest private forest owner, AssiDoman, commits to sustainable forest management and to gain FSC-certification for its entire three million ha of forests	Fully achieved. The forest products company, AssiDoman, provided an invaluable early boost for sustainable forest management worldwide, by having its entire forest area FSC certified. At the time, AssiDoman was Europe’s largest private forest owner -- its three million ha covering an area the size of Belgium. The company also launched an internal initiative to guarantee that all its products could be sourced from sustainably managed forests. Together with WWF, the company then launched a series of initiatives to promote FSC in Europe. “We believe strongly in forging partnerships,” said former AssiDoman President and Chief Executive Lennart Ahlgren, “to ensure that we can serve our current future customers without costing the Earth its resources”.
29 – The major UK home improvement	Achieved. Britain’s leading home improvement chain, B&Q; pioneered the introduction of environmental standards in retailing. The company introduced a policy to ensure all purchases of wood and timber products

chain, B&Q, commits to improved environmental standards	came from sustainably managed forests, promoting FSC as the best standard.
30 – Argentinian wood company Alto Paraná agrees to place 3,200 ha of forest land into a private nature reserve	Achieved. Alto Paraná, the owner of 40,000 ha within the highly-fragmented Atlantic Upper Paraná forest – one of the world's most threatened forest types – created a 3,200 ha private nature reserve to link two existing protected areas. The Atlantic Upper Paraná forest is shared by Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, but this uniquely rich forest, sheltering rare and threatened species such as the jaguar and tapir and thousands of plant species, has been reduced to less than five percent of its former extent.
31 – The Government of British Columbia in Canada extends protection to 4,3-million ha of the northern Rockies	Fully achieved. Fifteen new protected areas were created, totalling 1-million ha, buffered by more than 3-million ha of Special Management Zones and a further 920,000ha of Special Wildland Zones. The 6,3-million ha Muskwa-Kechika Management Area remains one of the last true wilderness areas in North America, and a priority to achieve responsible management. Through stakeholder engagement, consensus was reached on land management that would allow resource development while ensuring the protection of important wildlife and environmental values.
32– Protection of eight freshwater areas in the Indian Himalayas	Partly achieved. Five wetlands in the high altitude Ladakh region have been prioritized: Tsomoriri, Tsokar-Startsapuk Tso, Pangong Tso, Hanle marshes, and Chushul marshes. Local communities close to Tsomoriri and Tsokar have formed their own conservation trusts to regulate camping and other tourism activities. This has helped rehabilitate waterbird populations and improved local incomes. The state government has appointed WWF India to draw up management plans.

33 – Increase protected area coverage in Russia's Adygei Republic to 21 percent	Moderate progress . By decree of the President of the Republic of Adygea in 1997 three nature monuments created covering 11,389 ha. Total coverage of PAs in the Republic is 14%.
34 – Ecuador's Galapagos Archipelago Marine Park to be expanded, and damaging fishing practices to be stopped	Fully achieved, but under persistent threat. The Galapagos Special Law expanded the marine park, including establishment of a 50,000 sq mile reserve, and banned industrial fishing boats from the park, with provision to benefit local inhabitants from sustainable use and tourism activities. The fishing industry has attempted to cancel or weaken the law, but it continues to be enforced. Keeping industrial fishing boats out of the park remains a challenge, especially with limited resources, while also encouraging sustainable artisanal fishing. The law has increased buy-in from the local community to participate in managing the park's natural resource base, and to help design a provisional zoning scheme, run by WWF.
1998	
35 – Government of Brazil to establish 25-million ha of new protected areas	Mostly achieved, and the target has been strengthened to achieve 60 mill ha of PAs. In 2002, the ARPA (Amazon Protected Area Programme) was launched in partnership with WWF and the World Bank, with the aim to achieve conservation-based management of 37-million ha: 28-million ha of protected area and 9-million ha for sustainable use. Key to the realization of this huge challenge – which will contribute enormously to the protection and sustainable use of the Amazon basin forests – is to complete the funding. An estimated \$220-million is required to capitalize the protected areas fund, for which WWF has committed to raise \$70-million. Gift to the Earth recognition played an important role in gaining the commitment of the Brazilian government to fulfill the commitment.
36 – Swiss company Held AG agrees to reduce energy use and sustainable sourcing	Fully achieved. A manufacturer of household cleaning products, Held AG launched a life-cycle strategy to its operations, ranging from the selection of the raw materials and chemicals to the use and disposal of its products. Energy consumption was also tackled, and oil use was reduced to zero and electricity demand reduced by 34 percent.
37 – Turkish Gvt agrees to establish six new coastal PAs to protect the endangered Mediterranean monk seal	Achieved. To celebrate world Oceans Day on 8 June 1998, the Turkish Government announced the creation of six new coastal protected areas along a 200 km stretch of southern Turkey's Cilician coast. This action is to help protect the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal, of which less than 300 are estimated to survive. The seals' future survival is threatened by over-fishing and being caught in the nets, disturbance and pollution. The protected areas help isolate important breeding and feeding areas from human disturbance.
38 – Protection of the 220,000ha Lac Lobeke forests in Cameroon	Largely achieved. Lac Lobeke has been declared a special protected area, with a 217,850ha core PA surrounded by multiple use zones including hunting, sustainable logging, professional hunting and village farmlands. Revenue goes to village development projects such as new wells & primary schools. The forest is the traditional home to the Baka pygmies, is the source of their livelihoods, and is sacred. Lac Lobeke is part of a 1,5-million ha tri-national protected area complex – the Sangha Tri-national – linking Cameroon with the central African Republic and Congo to achieve protection for a virtually untouched reservoir of biological diversity including forest elephant, buffalo, antelope, lowland gorilla and chimpanzee. The Sangha Tri-national was

	agreed at the Brazzaville summit of Congo basin heads of state in February 2005.
39 – Creation of 47,000 ha Menai Bay protected area in Tanzania	<p>Achieved. The 47,000ha Menai Bay Conservation Area was designated, and management structures established including local villages, fisheries officers, and law enforcement. Funding for management and community development is collected from tourists, based on what tourists are willing to pay to visit well managed protected areas. Seventy percent of income is used for conservation management, and 30 percent for community development. Many fisherfolk have modified their craft to carry tourists, resulting in lowered pressure on the fishery.</p> <p>GttE recognition helped build political will in the east African region to implement conservation, and this was followed by declaration of several new MPAs; the Mafia Island Marine Park has been scaled up tenfold to cover the Mafia-Kilwa-Rufiji seascape complex, totaling 900,000ha.</p>
40 – Creation of Cape Peninsula National Park in South Africa to include Table Mountain	<p>Mostly achieved. On World Environment Day, 5 June 1998, the then South African President Nelson Mandela announced the designation of the 24,500 ha PA securing Table Mountain as a Gift to the Earth. Together with seven other sites in the fynbos, the national park has been declared a World Heritage Site. The Table Mountain Fund was created, with funding support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The new National Park stretches 40km from Cape Town to the Cape of Good Hope. Home to some 2,285 plant species, of which 125 are threatened, the park protects important elements of the fynbos – a WWF priority area. In June 2004 a 1,000 ha marine protected area was added.</p>
41 – Establishment of Monts Doudou forest protected area in Gabon	<p>Mostly achieved. The 230,000ha Monts Doudou National Park has been declared by government. As noted in GttE No. 38, the government of Gabon has committed to follow through with the Yaounde Declaration, setting up a commission to review protected area priorities, and this led to the declaration of 13 new national parks.</p>
42 – Creation of the Arrabida and Berlengas Archipelago MPAs off Portugal	<p>Achieved, but under threat. The two marine protected areas were proclaimed, but management plans have not been fully developed or implemented, and there are threats to reduce the size and protective status of the Arrabida park.</p>

43 – The Mexican Government committed to promote forest restoration in fire-damaged areas	Slow progress. Following the devastating forest fires in Mexico, the then President Zedillo issued a Presidential Decree in September 1998 which identified 85 areas in 21 of Mexico's 30 states, where forest restoration plans were to be developed. This covered an area of 188,000 ha. This was linked to an assessment of policies and practices which contributed to the fires. The legal status of these areas should prevent land-use changes, and thus remove incentives for setting new fires to allow development in forested areas.
44 – Development of Nature Conservancy programme to promote community-based conservation in Namibia	Achieved and expanding. This programme opens the way for Namibia's communal area farmers to manage, protect and benefit from the wildlife and other natural resources on their land. This boosts rural economies, empowers local communities and addresses poverty by providing alternate land uses that are environmentally sustainable and financially viable. The impact has been tremendous, shown by the rapid recovery of key species, the income and the number of people benefitting. To date, the area under conservancies has increased to 16 -million ha effectively more than doubling the country's PA cover, and the number of registered conservancies has increased from four in 1998 to more than 80 today.
1999	
45 – Establishment of the Cape Aghulas National Park in South Africa	Mostly achieved. The Cape Aghulas National Park was proclaimed September 1999. Situated in the Aghulas Plain, an area of huge plant diversity with over 2,000 plant species of which 100 are endemic to the area, the park represents a highly significant lowland fynbos and wetland protected area (PA) which incorporates the southern tip of Africa and several Important Bird Areas. The area of the park is currently 17,280ha, and the aim is to increase this to at least 20,000ha. A Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Aghulas Biodiversity Initiative engages with the park's neighbours to secure the remnant coastal lowland vegetation. In an innovative move, the park authority negotiated with local landowners to take over management of 50,000ha in contractual arrangements that will hugely increase the effective size of the National Park.
46 – South African conservationist donates 47,000ha to help create a major new national park for the succulent karoo	Fully achieved. Supported by Leslie Hill, an ardent private conservationist devoted to the highly threatened succulent karoo, WWF-SA began negotiating with the South African conservation authorities in 1996 to create a new national park in this important area. At the event where the new 49,000ha Namaqualand National Park was declared it was also announced that Mr Hill had donated 47,000ha of land as the core of the new PA. This act was the culmination of many similar initiatives by Leslie Hill to conserve the succulent karoo – a significant and highly threatened centre of plant biodiversity with some 4,000 species, of which 60 percent are found nowhere else. The GtE sparked efforts to identify other local landowners prepared to help further enlarge the park.
47 – Creation of biological corridors to link Bhutan's nine national parks	Steady progress. In 1999, the Government of Bhutan demarcated a network of biological corridors to link the nine national parks which represent 26 percent of the country. The corridors, which are heavily forested, are based on the known movements of tigers moving between the parks and add a further 9 percent to the protected area coverage. Two corridors connecting Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary and Thrumshrigla National Park have been surveyed for biodiversity and socio-economic information for management, and surveys are currently underway in a further two corridors to link Thrumshrigla NP with Royal Manas and Jingme Singye National Parks. This represents 40 percent of the size of the corridor network. The GtE has been a matter of pride among the people of Bhutan that such a small country can make a globally significant contribution to conservation.
48 – Sabah State Government in	Steady progress. During the WWF Annual Conference in Sabah in 1999, the Malaysian State Government of Sabah announced it would designate a 27,000 ha wildlife sanctuary along the lower Kinabatangan river, linking

Malaysia to designate the 27,000 ha Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary	isolated riverine forest patches. The sanctuary is of major significance for species such as orangutan, Asian elephant and proboscis monkey, and home to 10 primate and 8 hornbill species. In the river a rare freshwater shark is found and Irrawaddy dolphins. Most of Sabah's lowland forest has been replaced with oil palm plantations. The sanctuary is the core of plans to pull back oil palm from the riverbank to restore riverine forest the length of the Kinabatangan river from the upper catchment to the mouth.
49 – Creation of the Ligurian Sea Cetacean Sanctuary by France, Italy and Monaco	Achieved. The Treaty establishing the 8,5 mill ha sanctuary – the first in the northern hemisphere -- was signed and ratified by all three countries, to establish a protected area (PA) for the area, known to be the richest in the Mediterranean Sea for cetaceans, with 13 species regularly sighted. More recently, the three countries have agreed a management plan for the sanctuary, which has also been recognized as a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI), under the Barcelona Convention. Challenges ahead include the French driftnet fleet fishing illegally in the sanctuary, frequent oil spills in the area, and the growing as yet unregulated whale watching industry.
2000	
50 & 51 – Hamburg is Germany's first city-state, and Schleswig-Holstein the first state, to gain FSC-certification of their forests	Fully achieved. The certifications have helped accelerate uptake of the FSC sustainable forest management standard across Germany, and the states have played an important role in the German FSC certification network. Hamburg also has a commitment on the procurement of FSC-certified timber for public service requirements.

52 – Creation of Prespa Park as the first transboundary protected area in the Balkans	The park has been declared by the Prime Ministers of the three countries - Greece, Albania, FYR of Macedonia - but effective implementation of the transboundary protected area remains a challenge. The Declaration recognizes the Prespa park – including the two Prespa lakes and the surrounding catchment -- is an area of international importance that needs to be managed by all three states. A trilateral Prespa Park Coordination Committee (SPCC) has been set up, together with a Secretariat, run by the collaborating NGOs, and the SPCC has developed a strategic action plan. Also, funding has been mobilized from international agencies.
53 –The gvts of Belize, Guatamala, Honduras and Mexico commit to develop and implement a regional management plan for the Meso-American reef.	Fully achieved. The four countries are cooperating to implement the management plan, and conservation results include the establishment of a chain of a dozen MPAs to protect key areas for the threatened grouper. MPAs have also been established in the three other countries. Funding has been mobilized, and planning is underway for a heads of state summit later in 2005 to review progress and future priorities. This reef is unique in the western hemisphere for its size, array of reef types and nearly 60 coral species. It extends nearly 700km from the northern tip of the Yucatán peninsula in Mexico to the Bay islands off the coast of Honduras. Specific conservation targets included in this GtE commitment are a strengthening of the regional system of protected areas, regional fisheries management and conservation of key species and habitats
54 – Establishment of the 600,000ha Danube Green Corridor	Good progress. The Declaration to create the lower Danube Green Corridor was signed on World Environment Day, 5 June 2000 in Bucharest by the governments of Bulgaria, Moldova, Rumania and Ukraine. The target for incorporating 777,195ha of existing protected areas (PAs) has been met, and there has been enlargement of some areas totalling 31,000ha. Progress is slower with new PAs and restoration of wetlands. Overall, the declaration has provided a valuable high level platform to implement the EU Freshwater Directive, and achieve transboundary cooperation on freshwater management.
55 – Brazil's Acre State commits to FSC-certify 2,5-million ha of sustainably managed forests by 2010	Slow progress. Only 14,144ha of community-managed forests are FSC-certified to date, but state and private forests are expected to achieve FSC-certification at an accelerating pace – 270,000ha in 2006, 230,000ha in 2007, and 600,000 in 2009.
56 & 57 – SAPPI & MONDI, two of South Africa's largest pulp & paper companies commit to FSC certification and wise management of wetlands and forests	Largely achieved. SAPPI has achieved FSC-certification of all 340,000ha plantations in South Africa, and removed plantation trees from 15,500ha of wetland and riparian areas. Mondi's land holdings in South Africa exceed 600,000ha. Of this area, 450,000ha have been FSC-certified, representing one-third of the total area under commercial afforestation in South Africa. Mondi publicly supports the FSC certification model, and has also developed a sustainable wetlands policy
58 – Creation of Peace Parks Foundation – to create transboundary protected areas in southern Africa to	Fully achieved. This GtE honours Dr Anton Rupert, the founder of WWF-South Africa, and inspiration for development of WWF's fundraising potential, who more recently conceived and implemented the idea of creating a network of transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) in southern Africa. Dr Rupert enlisted the support of the then South African President Nelson Mandela and the late Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. The initiative has identified 14 potential TFCAs in southern Africa, which could attract more than one million

benefit conservation and sustainable development	tourists annually, and create up to eight million job opportunities. International agreements have been signed for six TFCAs, with a further two TFCAs in final development: Kagligadi TFCA shared by Botswana and South Africa, and the Greater Limpopo TFCA shared by Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
59 – The Government of Nepal commits to the extension of Royal Bardia National Park	Partly achieved. The extension would add 89,300ha to the National Park. Detailed biological and social surveys of the extension have been completed and submitted to government. However, local civil unrest since 2000 has prevented any progress in signing this enlargement into law.
60 – First major FSC-certification of sustainably managed forest in Switzerland	Fully achieved. Geneva is Switzerland's first canton to achieve Forest Stewardship Council certification for the sustainable management of its forests. Following the lead set by Geneva, forests in other cantons have also been FSC-certified. The GttE has provided a positive profile for Geneva's environmental policy, and has helped encourage other forest owners to seek FSC certification.
2001	
61 – Turkey commits to PA expansion including creation of the 114,000ha Küre Mountains National Park	Good progress. Although only 37,000ha of the Küre Mountains National Park have been created to date, there has been rapid progress on other protected areas (PAs), with three national parks and two nature parks created, totaling 169,000ha of new protected area, and a further 100,000ha is planned. However, lack of adequate resources has slowed the process, making it difficult to justify creating new protected areas when existing PAs are not effectively managed.
62 – Forest protected areas to be increased to 15% of Georgia by 2010	Slow progress. Georgia's forest protected (PA) area coverage has been increased by 35,457ha to a total of 239,437ha – or 8,7% of the total forest area. WWF is working with the government to establish the 16,000ha Mtirala National Park, and the 19,000ha Saguramo National park, while government is planning to create several other forest PAs. "The GttE has set an ambitious and strategic forest protection target, and following on the very positive profile created by the earlier Georgia GttE (No. 7), provides a powerful communications tool with government
	In March 2001, in a series of high level events in Mauritania, Guinea Bissau and Senegal, WWF recognized as Gifts to the Earth the creation or enlargement of two of the most important wetlands along the entire west coast of Africa in Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, and gained a commitment from Senegal to create a network of marine protected areas. The GttE events helped initiate a partnership between WWF, IUCN – the World Conservation Union, and a local NGO Fondation International du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA) to develop a joint conservation programme for the larger ecoregion. This has also helped mobilize funding for implementation of management of the protected areas. Wetlands International joined this partnership later. The announcement by the Senegal Minister of Fisheries that a network of marine protected areas would be created was realized two years later at the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, where WWF recognized this achievement as a GttE. See GttEs 63, 64, 93, 102
63 – The Government of Mauritania fully protects the Banc	Fully achieved. The Banc d'Arguin is one of the world's most important coastal wetlands, and is a core area within WWF's priority West Africa Marine Ecoregion (WAMER). The park provides shelter for an estimated two million waterbirds migrating annually between southern Africa and northern Europe, as well as the endangered

d'Arguin National Park – creating Africa's largest marine protected area	monk seal and rare Guinean dolphin. The area is also part of a major marine upwelling which supports one of the richest fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean, and is home to an isolated indigenous population -- the Imraguen -- who practice sustainable artisanal fishing. The government passed a law in 2001 which fully protects the Banc d'Arguin, increasing its size to 12,000 km ² , of which half is marine, and bans industrial fishing inside the park. The Imraguen are allowed to continue traditional sustainable fishing methods, and have become unofficial protectors of the park. The Gift to the Earth was celebrated in the Parliament buildings in Nouakshat, Mauritania
64 – Creation of the João Vieira/ Poilão Marine National Park in Guinea Bissau	Achieved. In the Bijagos Archipelago in Guinea Bissau, the government was recognized for the creation of the 500 km ² João Vieira/ Poilão Marine National Park. The sacred Poilão Island, in the park, is home to the largest green turtle nesting site on the African Atlantic coast, with over 7,600 nests recorded in one recent season. The park also offers shelter for an estimated 700,000 migratory waterbirds including Caspian, black & royal terns, and highly endangered Mediterranean monk seal and rare Guinean dolphin. IUCN played a key role with government in the creation of this important coastal wetland and marine protected area, which also supports sustainable fishery management.
65 – Tropical Forest Trust (TFT) to increase the area of sustainably managed and FSC-certified tropical forest	Achieved. The original target of this GttE – to ensure that the garden furniture company ScanCom would, by 2005, have all its wooden furniture sourced from FSC-certified forests – has been met. Because of the very limited supply of wood from FSC-certified natural forests in Asia, TFT helped ScanCom – one of its members – to shift to using eucalyptus from FSC-certified plantations that was more readily available. This required different design, manufacturing and marketing techniques. Several of ScanCom's competitors have followed similarly, thus reducing pressure on natural forests. Beyond this, with TFT support, the PITC natural forest in Malaysia became only the second natural forest in Asia to gain FSC-certification.
66 – Expansion of the protected area network in Croatia including creation of Sjeverni Velebit National Park	Steady progress. The total new protected area (PA) created to date is 224,000ha, and includes the Sjeverni Velebit National Park. Together with a local NGO partner, Green Action, WWF is working with government on a management plan for all PAs in the Velebit region to harmonize all legislation relevant to natural resource management, and identify high priority sites for new PAs. In the Dalmatian coast region, WWF is working with government to create a 19,000ha forest and marine PA in the Lastovo islands. The GttE has generated great interest and stakeholder involvement from national to local levels, and has helped gain government interest in WWF's goals.
67 – Bolivia commits to designate 4,7-million ha of the Pantanal as a Ramsar site	Fully achieved. The government declared the Bolivian section of the Pantanal as a Ramsar site, along with other wetlands. The Pantanal is identified as one of the three most important freshwater ecosystems in Latin America. The Bolivian section of the Pantanal, which makes up 3% of the size of the country, is particularly important as an extension of the Chiquitano forest and Cerrado.
68 – Iisaak Forest Resources company commits to achieve FSC-certification of 87,000ha of forest in a pioneering community-based	While the original target of the Gift to the Earth has been achieved, the commitment of the part-community owned company to the protection and sustainable management of Clayoquot Sound and its globally significant coastal temperate rainforest is continuing. Together with WWF, Iisaak is working with partners, stakeholders and other local resource-based companies to develop conservation options that promote the long term sustainability of the region, and secure the conservation of pristine areas, identified by First Nations as 'eehmiss', which are not formally protected but are culturally and biologically important. Within the forests managed by Iisaak, there are 10,000ha of eehmiss areas. A further aim is to increase the forests certified

partnership in British Columbia, Canada	under FSC by a further 61,000ha, so that 60% of Clayoquot Sound is managed with a conservation focus.
69 – Establishment of the Tortuga Marine Reserve, Florida, United States	Achieved. The 67,200ha reserve has been implemented in the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. The collaborative and consensus-based decision-making model developed to help local stakeholders make design and management decisions for the reserve, has been adapted and used elsewhere in the Bering Sea, Gulf of California, and the Pribilof islands. It aims to help small communities better conserve habitats and species through MPAs and improved fisheries management.

70 – The UK becomes the first country to FSC-certify the entire state forest.	Achieved. The entire 800,000ha state forest is FSC-certified, and this has helped increase certification in the UK to 1,2million ha out of a total woodland estate of 2,8million ha. The Forest Commission is also recognized for achieving multi-stakeholder acceptance of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) as the national certification standard recognized by FSC. The Commission has also explored ways to remove obstacles preventing owners of small woodlands (100ha and less) from gaining certification.
2002	
71 – Launch of China's National Wetlands Conservation Plan, including Ramsar designation of 14 wetlands totalling 1,96 mill ha	Good progress. A total of 23 Ramsar sites have been designated, totaling over 3-million ha. The China National Wetlands Plan was released in 2001 with ambitious conservation objectives including an overall commitment to create 160 wetland reserves protecting 4-million ha and sustainably manage 20-million ha by 2010. A revision in 2005 increases the conservation targets, but has set back the date for achievement. Overall, the aim is by 2030 to have more than doubled the number of nature reserves to 643, covering 90% of China's total natural wetland area, restoration of 1,5-million ha, and addition of 80-million ha of Ramsar sites protecting wetlands of international importance.
72 – The Bolivian Forestry Chamber commits to have 3-million ha of Bolivia's forests FSC-certified by 2005.	Good progress. More than 2-million ha of tropical forest have been FSC-certified, establishing Bolivia as a world leader in the independent certification and sustainable management of tropical forests.
73 – Finland launches a Baltic protection programme to address threats to the northern Baltic, including pollution, and expand PA cover	Steady progress. In several areas, such as maritime safety and oil spill response and recovery, there is good progress. Finland was also active in the move to have the Baltic declared a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), as a form of protection against marine accidents. But in other areas such as combating diffuse pollution from agriculture, progress is slow. WWF Finland evaluated progress with a public survey, and this is being used by government, which is also cooperating in the identification of priority natural sites for protection. A new protected area is envisaged for the Ekenas Archipelago. For WWF Finland, the value of the GtE recognition has been very positive, helping draw attention to the threats facing the Baltic Sea, and challenging government and stakeholders to cooperate in addressing these threats in a strategic way.
74 – Launch of the Tri-National Wetlands Initiative to collaboratively manage 3-million ha of wetlands in Australia, Indonesia & PNG	Slow progress. The Bali bombing set back this initiative, but there is recently renewed interest. A meeting of the core parties is scheduled and a new activity plan developed. The Indonesian Government in Papua has pledged to complete Ramsar designation of the Wasur National Park. WWF needs to continue to promote this initiative with the three governments, and especially to secure the AU\$250,000 pledged by the Australian Government for the initiative at the Gift to the Earth announcement.
75 – The Amur Region in Russia to increase PA cover to 10% of the territory.	Fully achieved. A total of 2.1 million ha of new protected area has been added, doubling the protected territory which cover 11,3% of province. The protected areas include forested areas of outstanding biological significance, an additional 853,000ha of wetland PAs for Oriental storks and Japanese crane are being established. WWF is promoting transboundary PA creation along the one of the world's longest rivers, the Amur, which forms a natural frontier between

	Russian and China. The GttE event helped build bridges with key authorities of provinces along Amur River in Russia and China, leading to increased conservation commitment and funding. Fullfilment of GttE was celebrated at April 2011 with Certificate from Jim Leape.
76 - Russia's Primorsky Region to create 1,8-million ha of new protected area by 2005, to achieve a total protected area coverage of 18%	In progress. Former Governor Nazdratenko had fulfilled over 50% of the pledge, adding 955,765ha to the national protected area estate, taking the total PA cover from 6,8% to 12,5%. The forests of Primorsky are home to significant populations of highly threatened species such as the far eastern leopard and Amur tiger. In 2011-2013 the new Governor of province Miklushevskiy supported WWF projects and added 0,4 million ha of PAs, including the Land of Leopard national park, which covers with its buffer zone 345,000 ha of the Far Eastern leopard's habitats. So, in total, additional 1, 4 million ha of PAs have been created, and the PA system covers 15% of province. The outstanding 0,4 million ha of PAs from the GttE pledge is under consideration.
77 – In Portugal, the Azores regional government commits to establish marine protected areas to safeguard two hydrothermal vents and the associated important life forms	Steady progress. Effectively, the Lucky Strike and (..) seamounts are protected. The GttE event helped build significant awareness of the importance of hydrothermal vents and the need to act urgently to protect them from damage. The event also helped encourage EU countries to create marine protected areas (MPAs) in their waters. The process for determining action is being used elsewhere, eg for the Rainbow Vent outside the Azores EEZ. Collaboration has also been forged between WWF and the government of the Azores – recently leading to cooperation to prevent the waters of the Azores being opened to the EU fishing fleet – other stakeholders and members of the European parliament. This in turn is leading to discussions on conservation of deep water ecosystems. “The positive spin-off of this Gift to the Earth are almost overwhelming, and far outweigh the slowness of achieving full legal protection for the vents”.

	<p>In a series of high level events starting in 2002, WWF worked with the Government of Mozambique to establish and achieve ambitious protected area targets which resulted in the creation or expansion of five protected areas covering more than 4 million ha, all of which were recognized by WWF as globally significant areas for conservation management and protection. In this process, apart from the strong working relationship established by WWF with central and local authorities and communities, a number of conservation policies were also implemented eg the government's ratification of the Ramsar Convention, and significant development funding achieved. See GttEs 78, 79, 91, 109</p>
<p>78 – Doubling protection of the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park in southern Mozambique to 1,400km2</p>	<p>Fully achieved, but there are problems concerning private sector development. The Bazaruto Archipelago National Park has been increased to 1,400km2, and the management plan approved. However, development is taking place in the National Park counter to the management plan, and WWF is in contact with the government to address this issue. At the GttE ceremony, President Chissano invited further cooperation with WWF on marine protected area creation and implementation. This has led to the creation of further marine protected areas.</p>
<p>79 – Creation of the 700,000ha Quirimbas National Park in northern Mozambique, including a 150,000ha marine area.</p>	<p>Fully achieved. The 700,000ha national park was proclaimed, and the management plan approved. Funding for implementation has been committed by the French development agencies AFD and FFEM. The park protects important mangroves and coastal forests, and a fascinating array of key species including dugong, whales, elephants, buffalo, hunting dog and leopard. There is strong community support for the park, especially to deal with human/elephant conflict, to protect the sustainability of local fisheries, and attract tourism for employment opportunities. The GttE events also helped progress conservation goals including compulsory inclusion of turtle excluder devices in shrimp nets, wetlands protection, and efforts to develop a sustainable fisheries agreement with the EU. And strong interest both from local and national government to establish the new Primeiras & Segundas National Park in central Mozambique – a marine park which may be the largest on the African east coast.</p>
<p>80 – Eight Mexican communities commit to protect and sustainably manage 42,000 ha of forests</p>	<p>Good progress. The eight communities were recognized for taking up this innovative approach to forest protection and sustainable management, which has helped promote technical support and funding for the ecosystem goods and services provided by the community-based management of these forests. A further 50,000ha of community managed forest joined the scheme. Presented at the World Parks Congress in Durban in 2003, this helped bring about the Durban Agreement which recognizes the importance of promoting the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in the establishment of PAs, both for biodiversity conservation and for poverty reduction.</p>
<p>81 – Establishment of ecological corridors as community PAs to link two National Parks in Ecuador</p>	<p>Fully achieved. The local governments and rural communities of Baños, Mera and Palora in central Ecuador agreed to protect and sustainably manage 42,000 ha of an ecological corridor linking the Llanganates and Sangay national parks, enabling dispersal of plants and animals such as Andean bear and tapir, as well as jaguar. Within the corridor, 245 bird species have been recorded. The corridor also contains 15 tributaries of the Pastaza river, important for maintaining water quality and availability for many downstream users.</p>
<p>2003</p>	
<p>82 – Creation of the</p>	<p>Fully achieved. At the personal initiative of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE Minister of State</p>

Qarnein Island Protected Area in the United Arab Emirates	for Foreign Affairs, Qarnein Island became the first internationally-recognised marine protected area in the Arabian Gulf. This initiative protects breeding habitat for endangered hawksbill and green turtles, as well as many seabird colonies. There are 20,000 breeding pairs of lesser crested terns, and also bridle terns, white-cheeked terns and Saunders little terns.
83 – Establish Qinling mountain range in China as a PA network linking isolated giant panda populations	Good progress, with creation of 7 new reserves and 5 ecological corridors to link the PAs, and a formal commitment by the Shaanxi forest department to establish the remaining 5 reserves within the next two years. The increased protected area (a total of 313,300ha) and the 65,369ha of corridors to link isolated panda populations is a huge boost both for panda conservation and forest protection, effectively doubling the total PA for the northern panda population to 378,700 ha. This initiative helps ensure the viability of this important panda population.
84 – Deh Cho First nations and Gvt of Canada agree to freeze development across 10-mill ha to enable creation of a representative PA network	Good progress. The initial five year protection period, where 10 mill ha was withdrawn from development in the Mackenzie Valley is still intact, and longer term measures are in place through the North West Territories protected area process, and completion of the Deh Cho land-use plan. At this stage the majority of the more than 10-million ha under permanent or interim protection is proposed to be declared as conservation or protected areas. The Conservation First approach – freezing development in priority natural areas until a full stakeholder process can identify important cultural, sacred and biological sites and integrate these into a land-use plan – is now being followed in the Sahtu region to the north.
85 – The largest private forest owner in Europe, Sveaskog, commits to set aside for conservation 20 percent of its 3,5 million ha of forest	Sveaskog – formerly AssiDoman – continues to lead the world in implementing the highest standards of sustainable forest management, using FSC principles. The company is already halfway through a new assessment, using WWF's High Conservation Value Forest methodology, to identify areas of forest important for conservation and those which can be sustainably logged. This will result in 20 percent of the production forest being set aside for conservation-based management, a total of 700,000 ha. The 20 percent figure is estimated by WWF to be the minimum necessary to be set aside in a boreal forest to maintain biodiversity values. Sveaskog's commitment set an example to other Swedish forest owners, and further afield in the Baltic republics and south east Europe.
86 – The Norwegian Government to take a leadership role in promoting protection of cold water coral reefs including the Rost Reef – the largest known on Earth	Effectively achieved. Although formal protection for the Rost Reef is still pending, the reef is now protected from the most dangerous threat – bottom trawling. Support for protection of Rost Reef has come from Norway's fishing industry, together with WWF and other environmental groups. The industry support, and the fragility of cold water reefs has prompted government to consider making the reef a 'petroleum-free zone' – preventing oil and gas exploitation -- which would set an important precedent. The GtE recognition has had an important influence on the protection of cold water coral reefs and other deep water communities both in, and far beyond, Norway's waters. It has highlighted the issue and the need for urgent action in a number of intergovernmental decision-making fora, and kicked off a cascade of follow-up steps. The Minister of Fisheries used the GtE event to announce also protection for two additional reefs in southern Norway.
87 – Local communities and authorities cooperate with the Malagasy	Good progress. The GtE ceremony recognized the sacred status of the Sakoantovo and Vohimasio forests for the Mahafaly and Tandroy communities, and reinforced the value of sacred forests with other neighbouring communities. The event was used also to recognize the first transfer of land on the Mahafaly plateau for community management of a sacred forest, and to help progress community agreement to expand the 43,000ha

Government to conserve two sacred forests in the spiny forest ecoregion	Tsimanempetsotsa National Park to over 200,000ha. Following the GttE event there is increased recognition of the value of sacred forests. Requests have been made for more land transfers for local management of these forests, and for assistance in planning the community management of sacred forests. There is also increased engagement and support from local leaders and officials for the national park expansion. Sacred forests are also a sensitive subject however, and the event highlighted several lessons in how to handle local issues.
88 – The government of Kazakhstan commits to double existing PA network adding 832,000ha	Good progress. The 637,000ha Katon-Karagai National Park has been established protecting part of the sacred Belukha mountain, and a further 100,000ha added to another park. However, PA coverage in Kazakhstan is still low at about one percent of the country. The GttE recognition has prompted additional conservation initiatives in other Central Asian republics. Negotiations are underway, together with WWF Russia and the Altai Sayan ecoregion programme to secure protection for the Russian part of the Belukha mountain.
89 – Pacific nations join forces to save whales – eleven South Pacific nations establish whale sanctuaries in their waters	Slow progress. At least 12 whale species, including the endangered blue, sperm, southern right, fin and sei whales will benefit from the protection offered by 11 South Pacific nations which declared their waters to be whale sanctuaries at a Pacific Forum meeting in New Zealand in August 2003. The Cook islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Niue, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Australia and New Zealand have either already declared their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) as whale sanctuaries or are taking action through national legislation. Together, the sanctuaries total 28,500 km ² of ocean and create a blueprint for whale conservation and shared management of marine resources throughout the world. The GttE event helped mobilize funding to help with the design, implementation and management of whale sanctuaries, to encourage other Pacific nations to join this initiative, and to promote high standards for whale watching, to enable coastal communities to benefit from ecotourism.
90 – Australian Government to create the 6,5-million ha Heard Island and McDonald Islands fully protected marine reserve in the Southern Ocean	Close to completion. The Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) marine reserve was proclaimed -- at the time it was the world's largest marine protected area (MPA) – and follow up requires a scientific programme to inform the management plan. These are both delayed due to weather conditions, but on track. A key purpose of establishing this MPA was to help prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which was doing severe damage to the fishery around the islands. New developments include Australia's membership of the OECD High Seas Task Force, collaboration with France on scientific programmes and measures to stamp out IUU fishing in the region between HIMI and the French Kerguelen plateau, and resources for the pursuit of IUU vessels. "Certainly this has been a very positive GttE, which is frequently commented on – and the certificates are very publicly displayed. The recognition by WWF has helped convince the Australian government and fishing industry that positive outcomes can be negotiated and that WWF is a good partner in these discussions. It has helped bring industry to the table for High Seas regulation and IUU fishing issues, and has leveraged additional government attention".
91 – Mozambique to join the Ramsar Convention and designate the Marromeu Complex in the Zambezi River delta as a wetland of international	Achieved. Mozambique has ratified the Ramsar Convention and designated the 700,000ha Marromeu Complex within the Zambezi River delta. The Mozambique Government has also created a national wetlands committee, which is developing a management plan for the area. The Zambezi delta is an area of outstanding natural beauty, which contains Mozambique's largest concentrations of waterbirds, including three to four percent of the world's wattled crane population, plus crowned crane, several stork species and the largest white pelican breeding colony in southern Africa. The wetland also contains five percent of the country's mangroves – essential for the sustainable productivity of the wild-caught shrimp industry, which is one of Mozambique's largest foreign exchange earners.

significance	
92 – Commitment by the Government of Madagascar to triple the island's protected area coverage	Good progress. To great applause at the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa in September 2003, the President of Madagascar announced a commitment to triple the country's network of protected areas (PAs) from 1,7-mill ha to 6-million ha by 2008. This commitment is a tremendous boost for efforts to protect and sustainably manage the unique biodiversity of this fabled island. Led by the "Durban Vision" group, scientific identification of future PAs has been completed, and by-laws passed to suspend mining and logging in priority areas for future PAs.

93 – Creation of four new marine protected areas (MPAs) by the Government of Senegal and expansion of the MPA network	Fully achieved. The creation process actively involved local communities, and has been instrumental in strengthening collaboration between the Environment and Fisheries ministries, national and international NGOs, research institutes and media. The four new MPAs cover an area of 96,000ha. “The GttE helped set in motion useful new dynamics in Senegal, channeling all the marine and coastal stakeholders into a common objective. It has also proven highly inspiring for neighbouring countries like Cap Verde and Guinea which are currently initiating a similar stakeholder-based MPA creation. It is hoped to be able to recognize new MPAs in Cap Verde and Guinea as Gifts to the Earth”.
2004	
94 – The implementation of <i>environmental educational guidelines</i> by the Gvt of China	Steady progress. The Ministry of Education gave final approval for the Guidelines, and the go ahead for the launch of the third phase of the Environmental Education Initiative which reaches 200,000 schools throughout China. Due to a shortage of funds it has been necessary to delay the start of the third phase, including introduction of the Guidelines to teachers nationwide as part of their teaching method.
95 – Gvt of Madagascar commits to develop a National Wetlands Strategy & designate more than 1-million ha of Ramsar sites	Good progress. Stakeholders have validated the National Wetlands Strategy, and this is awaiting government approval and adoption as a government decree. A total of 785,593ha of wetlands has been designated as Ramsar wetlands of international significance, with further sites in development. “Awareness of the importance of freshwater conservation is increasing among local communities, conservationists and government, and the GttE event contributed to this”.
96 – Commitment by the South African Government to protect 20 percent of the country’s coastline, including creation of nine new marine protected areas (MPAs)	Good progress. The declaration of four new MPAs takes South Africa’s MPA network up from 11% to 18% of the coastline. A fifth large MPA designed to help protect the important hake fishery on the west coast is undergoing further stakeholder consultation to gain the widest support. A further four MPAs are planned, which will include protection for substantial areas of the continental shelf and extending into the country’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and also in the southern ocean around South Africa’s Prince Edward Islands. The declaration of these MPAs represents a significant achievement which is part of a greater commitment by the government to protect its marine resources and biodiversity. The declaration of the new MPAs and plans for additional protected areas was stimulated by a WWF-South Africa study of the effectiveness of the existing MPA network. One of the outcomes is recognition of the need for training of MPA managers, which WWF is now addressing with the marine management authorities. “The GttE event provided an opportunity to bring the various stakeholders together, especially representatives of the fishing industry, and the Environment Minister used the platform to announce the intention to create one of the world’s biggest MPAs around the Prince Edward islands, where illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has caused huge damage to the toothfish fishery – an example of a win-win for conservation and sustainable management with WWF, the fishing industry and government cooperating for the common good”.
97 – Establishment of 1,3-million ha of new protected areas in Indonesia, and	Achieved. This achievement was announced at the IUCN-World Conservation Union conference in Thailand in November 2004, together with a commitment by government to establish a further 1-million ha of new protected areas in 2005. Nine new protected areas were created in 2004, totaling 1,316,566ha – an area one-third the size of Switzerland. These include the 568,700ha Sebangau National Park, vital for protecting lowland tropical forest

commitment to further improve management effectiveness	and a large population of orangutans, and the 362,605ha Togeian islands National Park. The 38,576 ha core of the new Teso Nilo National Park, in Sumatra's Riaau province was created to protect the largest surviving block of 180,000ha of exceptionally biodiverse lowland forest on the once densely-forested island. Tesso Nilo also shelters a population of Asian elephant. "Prompted by the GttE celebration, the announcement of the creation in 2004 of 1,3-million ha of new PAs -- together with a commitment for a further 1-million ha -- is a huge boost to efforts to save the rapidly shrinking rainforests of Indonesia from destruction. Spread across Indonesia, the new PAs protect a huge variety of biodiversity, especially the endangered Sumatran tiger, rhino and elephant, and the orangutan".
2005	
98 – Seven countries of the Congo basin commit to ensure the survival of the world's second largest surviving area of tropical forest through protection and sustainable management	Good progress. Starting with the Yaoundé Summit in Cameroon in 1999, this precedent-setting initiative for forest conservation on a huge scale took on a powerful new shape at the Brazzaville Summit in Congo in February 2005. At this summit, it was announced that 4,5-million ha of new and upgraded forest protected areas (FPAs) had been created since 1999, and a treaty and strategic plan were signed by Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of Congo committing the signatory countries to progressive forest conservation policies with ambitious targets for the next five years. The COMIFAC treaty is Africa's first regional accord for forest conservation. In addition, two major tri-national FPA agreements were signed which bring almost 10 percent of the Congo basin forests under joint conservation management. The Gift to the Earth platform provided a number of additional opportunities for conservation announcements. The DRC announced a commitment to double its PA network to 15% of the forest cover. The Gvt of Italy announced debt forgiveness for central African countries of about €700-million, which will be converted into Debt-for-Nature agreements.

99 – Commitment by the Government of Peru to create the 2,5-million ha Alto Purus National Park and the 202,000ha Purus Communal Reserve for indigenous peoples.	<p>Good progress. The creation of these new protected areas (PAs) is a huge boost both for the protection of the Amazon forest, but also for the rights and dignity of indigenous people choosing to live in voluntary isolation. This PA complex has been negotiated with indigenous peoples' organizations, government, WWF and other NGOs, and local stakeholders, and is a tribute to a very careful and sensitive process. A special commission will propose a legal framework for the creation and administration of territorial reserves for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation in the Peruvian Amazon. In addition, the forest sector has been modernized through adoption of independent certification of sustainable forest management and chain of custody. A special presidential commission has been established to shut down illegal logging which both destroys the forest and possibilities of sustainable use, and causes huge financial losses to the government.</p>
100 – Commitment by Russia's Krasnoyarsk Region to establish more than 3-million hectares of new protected areas by 2007, doubling the area under protection.	<p>Moderate progress. The 100th Gift to the Earth was marked by the visit to Krasnoyarsk by HRH Prince Henrik of Denmark, founder and patron of WWF Denmark. Since then, 13 PAs established covering 1,27 million hectares against the 3,5 million originally announced. In addition, 1 million ha of boreal forests in Eastern-Siberian Taiga Ecoregion now managed according FSC standards. The extensive taiga forests of the Krasnoyarsk region – at the geographic heart of Russia – is home to many charismatic species such as lynx, wolf, brown bear, wolverine, reindeer, elk, and raptors such as golden and white-tailed eagles. Krasnoyarsk is Russia's largest region, stretching from close to the border with China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan up to the Arctic Sea. The Krasnoyarsk commitment is the 14th Gift to the Earth recognized in Russia. As the first GtE was celebrated in Russia's Sakha Republic, followed by a series of powerful commitments throughout the Russian Federation, it is particularly symbolic that this is also the 100th Gift to the Earth. Overall, these GtE commitments highlight conservation achievements of global significance, demonstrating environmental leadership and inspiring others.</p>
101 – 24 new PAs totaling 1,8 mill ha created in NE China by Heilongjiang Province	<p>This commitment – which included a pledge to add a further 1 mill ha of new PAs, totaling 2,8 million ha - will take the PA cover in Heilongjiang Province to 6,4 mill ha, or 14% of the province, which is rich in temperate deciduous and conifer forest, providing habitat for the endangered Amur tiger and Far east leopard. The PA initiative was developed with local communities.</p>
102 – Five new MPAs totaling 82,000 ha established by the Gvt of Senegal	<p>Nearly 700 species of fish have been identified in Senegal's waters together with 20 cetacean and 5 marine turtle species. These five new MPAs are important not only for protecting the marine biodiversity of Senegal, but also the spawning and nursery grounds of commercially important fish and the fisheries on which hundreds of thousands of Senegalese depend for food and livelihoods. The fishing industry is the fourth largest contributor to Senegal's GDP, but due to overfishing – mainly by foreign-registered boats – the commercial catch in Senegalese waters has plummeted by 80% since the 1950s. The creation of MPAs along the coastline in cooperation with local communities is planned to help protect critical areas and facilitate recovery of fish stocks.</p>
103 – The Australian Gvt declared the Great barrier Reef Zoning Plan which hugely increases the protected area of the GBR marine park from 4% to 33% with a total	<p>The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's most renowned natural treasures, and the new Zoning Plan – which bans fishing in ecologically sensitive and high conservation value areas while allowing regulated fishing in less sensitive areas – is a pioneering development in marine conservation that sets a benchmark for MPA network establishment in Australia and the world. The GBR is also a huge asset for the hugely valuable tourism industry, which contributed US\$4,3 billion to the Australian economy in 2004 and employed 62,000 people. WWF expects the Australian Gvt to continue its marine conservation leadership role in combating threats to the GBR – especially the inflow of water laden with agricultural chemicals and sediments from farming areas upstream of the reef. This is the 2nd GtE recognition for Australia, and follows on the declaration of the Heard and</p>

MPA cover of 13 mill ha.	MacDonald Islands in the Southern Ocean as an MPA.
2006	
104 – The Chinese provincial govts of Gansu and Sichuan protect almost half the world's giant pandas with new PAs and linking corridors.	The two provinces have created 1,6 mill ha of new PAs in the Minshan Mountains, one of the world's most biologically diverse temperate forest landscapes, as well as established ecological corridors to link isolated panda populations. Bamboo forests are being restored and logging banned in key areas. China's third national panda survey estimated 1,600 pandas, with approx 44% in the Minshan Mountains. The two govts have also committed to establish a further 900,000 ha of new PAs to help assure the future health and survival of this iconic species.
2007	
105 – An historic agreement brings together the provincial gvt, logging industry and local & indigenous communities to protect and sustainably manage priority forests in British Columbia on Canada's west coast.	The Great Bear Rainforest Agreement promises to end years of conflict over the logging of the world's largest temperate rainforest, and covers 6,4 million ha of forest, of which 1,2 mill ha will be protected and the remainder subject to ecosystems-based management provisions to help secure ecological and cultural and social values. This agreement represents both an example of joint leadership and cooperation as well as a significant conservation achievement. The GtE award recognised the provincial gvt, indigenous communities, environment groups and forest companies who worked together for more than a decade to conserve ecologically sensitive and important areas of the forest.
2010	
106 – Creation by OSPAR of the world's first high seas MPA network in the north-east Atlantic	In the north-east Atlantic, WWF recognized the work of the Oslo-Paris Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment (OSPAR) in establishing a suite of high seas MPAs, including four seamount protected areas as well as two large sections of the mid-Atlantic ridge – a stunning and ecologically valuable undersea mountain chain. This represents a unique collaboration between several coastal states, OSPAR and other bodies that sets an important precedent and lesson to be shared with other regional seas, demonstrating it is possible to identify priority areas on the high seas, set conservation objectives and achieve the political will to succeed in protecting these areas. This region is rich in marine wildlife including cetaceans, sharks and rays, orange roughy and other deepwater fish and vulnerable marine ecosystems such as cold water corals reefs, sponge aggregations, seamounts and hydrothermal vent fields that have been highly threatened by damaging fishing practices.
107 – Creation by CCAMLR of the world's first high seas MPA in the Southern Ocean and commitment to	The Southern Ocean is one of the Earth's last great wildernesses. Isolated by ice, wind and wild seas it is also one of the world's most pristine environments – a region of spectacular natural beauty that is home to an outstanding diversity and productivity of wildlife. Recognising the importance of the region's diversity, productivity and role in regulating global climate, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) committed to create a representative network marine protected areas throughout the Southern Ocean, and the first step was creation of the South Orkneys MPA, the first high Seas MPA and the first

establish a fully representative MPA network in the Southern Ocean	component of the Southern Ocean MPA network. Coherent, ecologically representative networks of well-managed MPAs are an important tool for protecting the rich and often vulnerable diversity of the 70% of the oceans that lie beyond national jurisdiction.
2011	
108 – The world's oldest national park authority, Parks Canada has created a suite of nine new PAs covering 90 million ha	Parks Canada has celebrated its 100 th anniversary by establishing nine new PAs covering 90 million ha, larger than Sweden or California. This commitment is notable also for the participation of Canadian First Nations, and features the world's first PA spanning mountain summits down to deep sea bed. The PAs include marine and freshwater areas of more than 1 million ha each and the world's largest freshwater PA. Parks Canada provides an example of conservation leadership and best practice in the ongoing establishment of one of the world's premier national PA networks, featuring strong representation of Canada's range of biodiversity, landscapes, and ecological functions, science-based management and extensive cooperation with Canada's First Nations. This commitment includes a process for a gap analysis to identify additional areas requiring protection to achieve a viable, integrated, well-managed and fully representative PA network.
109 – Mozambique recognized for establishing a PA network covering 14 mill ha representing 14% of national territory	The Mozambique Gvt was recognised for a number of important actions including establishment of the Niassa reserve, with 48,000 ha in a PA and a further 89,000 ha as a buffer zone. Lake Niassa is the third largest and second deepest lake in Africa, and is famed for the more than 1,000 species of cichlid fish that are mostly endemic to the lake which is shared by Malawi and Tanzania. Mozambique has also declared the Niassa reserve a Ramsar site of international importance. The Gvt has also just finalised a new national conservation policy, extended the buffer zone of the Gorongosa Reserve, and established the Ponto del Ouro marine reserve. WWF also recognized the tremendous work of the past decade to establish a representative 14 mill ha PA network representing 14% of national territory.
2013	
110 - South Africa creates world's 7th largest MPA – the 18 million ha Prince Edward islands MPA in the Southern Ocean	WWF recognized the South African Government for its leadership and inspiring example in declaring the huge new 18 million ha Prince Edward Islands marine protected area (MPA), the world's 7 th largest MPA situated 2,000 km south of the country in the Southern Ocean. The islands, Prince Edward and Marion, are a biodiversity hotspot, home to 8 million seabirds - mostly penguins - but including also five albatross species with almost 50% of the world population of wandering albatross, as well as cetaceans and seals. Also an important nursery area for Patagonian toothfish, known as Chilean seabass, this was damaged by illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the late 1990s. Protection should help recovery of the fishery.
111 - Gvt of Denmark passes world's most advanced climate/energy legislation	The Danish Government has the most ambitious climate and renewable energy targets of any industrialized country today, including commitments – which are well underway – to achieve 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050, with coal phased out by 2030, and to achieve a reduction of 40% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 figures. In particular, the Energy Agreement, agreed by all Danish political parties bar one, will achieve by 2020 a 34% reduction in GHG against 1990 figures, 35% renewable energy in final total energy consumption (of which 50% to be supplied by wind power) and a 7,6% reduction in gross energy consumption compared to 2010
112 – Namibia has created 79	WWF recognized the Government of Namibia for the successful development of the communal conservancies programme. Highlights include:

<p>conservancies covering 16 mill ha, doubling the area under conservation management and benefitting local communities and wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79 communal conservancies cover 19.6% of Namibia, more than doubling the area of Namibia under conservation management • One in five rural Namibians live in a conservancy and benefit from rights over natural resources • Over 15 years since the advent of the conservancy movement, wildlife populations have recovered dramatically
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2014	
113 -- Bolivia has designated a 6,9 mill ha wetland complex in the Amazon as a Ramsar site and will develop management plans for all 14,8 million ha of Bolivia's Ramsar wetlands .	<p>WWF recognized the Government of Bolivia for its contribution to the conservation and wise use of freshwater ecosystems through the designation of the 6,9 mill ha Llanos de Moxos Amazonian wetland complex as a Ramsar wetland of international significance – the largest wetland complex to be designated under Ramsar. The area is also the headwaters for the Madeira River, the main southern tributary of the Amazon River. This designation also makes Bolivia the world leader in Ramsar-designated wetland sites covering 14,8 million ha. The government has also committed to develop management plans for all Ramsar wetlands, which would feed into a national wetland policy.</p>