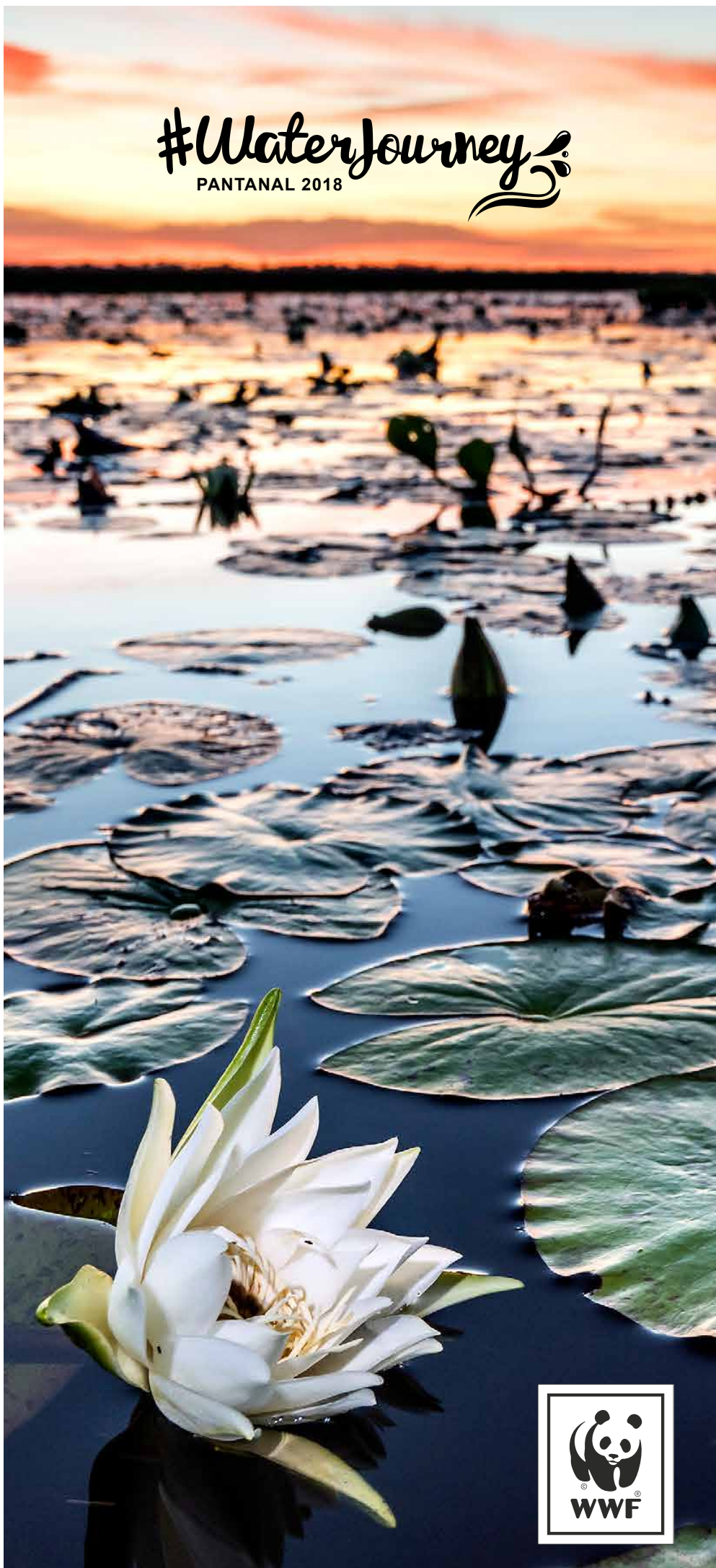


#WaterJourney

PANTANAL 2018





DIAMANTINO (

ALTO PARAGUAY

APA NASCENTES DO RIO PARAGUAY

TAMANDUÁ-BANDEIRA

BURITI

 $\hat{I}PF$

CHAPADA DOS GUIMARÃES

CUTAB

FOZ DO RIO SEPOTUBA

TATU-CANASTRA

CACERES

HOTEL BAIAZINHA

ESTAÇÃO
ECOLÓGICA TAIAMÃ

PEQUI



TRAVEL JOURNAL

MARCH 4TH (SUNDAY): ARRIVAL OF THE GROUP TO CUTABÁ.
REST AND DINNER AT HOTEL DEVILLE

MARCHESTE: EARLY DEPARTURE TO DIAMANTINO (2h).
WHAT WE WILL SEE: DEFORESTATION ON ACCOUNT OF SOY AND
EXTENSIVE LIVESTOCK. SEVERAL SPRINGS OF THE PARAGUAY
RIVER. INTENSIVE MECHANIZED AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC
ENGINE OF THE CENTER WEST OF BRAZIL.
IMPACT OF OLD DIAMANT MINING IN THE REGION.
APA RIVER SPRINGS PARAGUAY: VISIT IN THE SPRINGS OF THE
PARAGUAY RIVER, STILL WITH ITS CLEAN WATERS AND
WITHOUT SEDIMENTS

MARCH 6TH: DEPARTURE FROM CUTABÁ TO CACERES (3 HOURS).
LETTER AND SEWAGE ENTERING THE PARAGUAY RIVER AT THE MOUTH OF THE SEPATUBA RIVER.

MARCH 8: RETURN TO THE CUIABÁ AIRPORT.



WATER DOESN'T JUST SPRING FROM THE TAP!

Brazil's water sources need to be protected, restored and valued for the good of the country and its population.

This is the key message of the 2018 Journey of Water, which takes place along the Paraguay River in the state of Mato Grosso, an important river

in the Pantanal that is emblematic not just of Brazil, but also Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina. The Journey of Water is a biannual expedition created by the WWF Network to connect people with nature's water sources. The first editions were organised by WWF-South Africa in 2013 and in Zambia in 2017.

For the Brazilian edition, a stretch of the Paraguay River will be followed on a journey by car, on foot and on water, travelling through one of Brazil's most majestic landscapes. The group will get involved with the local community and get to know the challenges faced by this river along the long journey from its source to our taps. The intention is to open the participants' eyes to the problems threatening the Pantanal and its waters, and to raise water consumers' awareness of the importance of this resource for their survival, as well as that of animal and plant species, and for sustainable development. WWF-Brazil wants to alert people that water does not simply "spring" from their taps, but comes from our rivers, bringing people's attention to the fact that human activity can severely affect the quality and quantity of the water that is available to us, and for this reason it is vital that we conserve it.

All about the Pantanal

The Pantanal is known as the "Kingdom of Waters". This biome covers 170,500.92 km² and is bathed by various watercourses, including the Paraguay, Cuiabá, São Lourenço and Aquidauana rivers, which together make up the Upper Paraguay River Basin. During the rainy season between April and September, these rivers flood 80% of the region. The volume of water that flows down from the Pantanal's headwaters in the tableland region of the Upper Paraguay River Basin totals 180 million litres per day, which corresponds to 72 Olympic-size swimming pools, forming an impressive stretch of groundwater on the plains. This phenomenon occurs every year in a cycle of the rising and lowering of the water level that makes the Pantanal the largest continuous wetland on the planet. The Pantanal also directly influences the climatic balance and air humidity, and conserves the region's biodiversity and soil. It is no wonder that it is considered to be a Natural Heritage of Humanity and Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations (UN) and is defined as National Heritage in Brazil's Federal Constitution.

Pantanal spans three countries



BRAZIL: 62%



PARAGUAY: 20%



BOLÍVIA: 18%

The sum of the areas covered by this ecosystem is the size of four countries combined: Belgium, Holland, Portugal and Switzerland.

It is home to over 4,000 registered animal and plant species: 3,500 plants species, 656 different types of tree, 325 species of fish, 159 mammals, 98 reptiles and 53 amphibians.

The Pantanal at risk!

The principal threats to the conservation of the region include soy, sugarcane and eucalyptus monocultures, soil erosion and the implementation of infrastructure such as dams and waterways. Cattle raising, which up to the 18th century was a traditional activity in the region considered to be sustainable, is now extensive and is harming this sensitive ecosystem.

As a result, 38% of the Upper Paraguay River Basin has already been transformed, and if a protection plan is not put into action for this biome, or if new protected areas are not created, the Pantanal could suffer irreparable damage over the coming years, including permanent flooding, changes to its climate and flood pulses and the disappearance of native species, with the aggravating factor that the people of the Pantanal could disappear, with their culture, beliefs and traditional knowledge vanishing with them.

Just 3.19% of this biome is protected in Conservation Units, of which just 2.88% are fully protected sites, placing it at even greater risk.

A study carried out in 2017 by WWF-Brazil revealed that just 55% of the Pantanal's headwaters region is preserved, and that there is a deficit in legal reserves of approximately 392,000 hectares. The cost of the recuperation of this environmental liability would be approximately R\$3.9 billion.

What does WWF-Brazil do for the Pantanal

Aware of the needs of this environment, the WWF could not fail to act to promote harmony between man and nature and created the Cerrado Pantanal Program, which focuses on the creation and expansion of Conservation Units (CU), improvement of the management of protected areas, promotion of best agricultural practices, valorisation of production chains and the responsible planning of the occupation of the land.

The WWF-Brazil also carries out



Studies into the impacts of land use



Helps to conserve springs and rivers



Monitoring of vegetation coverage



Stimulates the sustainable production of beef



Supports the management of conservation units

An innovative action that is currently underway is called “The Pantanal Initiative” jointly lead by WWF-Bolivia, WWF-Brazil and WWF-Paraguay. This movement brings together governments and non-governmental organisations from the three countries that share the Pantanal and the Upper Paraguay River Basin in order to implement joint actions to conserve the Pantanal and promote the shared management of its waters and territory, strengthening platforms for dialogue, cooperation agreements and the financing of sustainable development actions.

The Pantanal Headwaters Pact

O Pacto em Defesa das Cabeceiras do Pantanal é uma aliança com os setores público, privado e organizações da sociedade civil para recuperar nascentes e conservar rios.

With the support of partners including HSBC and the WWF Network, the Pact has already promoted:



The recuperation of over eighty springs



The installation of approximately 40 environmentally-friendly septic tanks, benefitting over 40 families with a safe bio-fertilizer to increase fruit production



An incentive to construct three nurseries growing seedlings of native species



Over 160 kilometres of environmentally adequate rural roads



The implementation of conservation actions for water resources in the region, with the support of 25 municipal governments in the state of Mato Grosso



The creation of four municipal laws to protect the environment



Two municipalities benefitted by the National Water Agency (ANA) through the Water Producers Program for the creation of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) – Tangará da Serra and Mirassol D'Oeste



The mobilisation of hundreds of volunteers



Actions to clean up rivers in the state of Mato Grosso



Communication actions reaching over 5 million people

We want the Pantanal law now!

Bill of Law PLS 750/2011, known as the Pantanal Law, currently being processed by the Brazilian Senate's Environment Committee (CMA), could create important mechanisms to protect the Pantanal biome. For this to happen, it first needs to be refined.

The current text does represent some progress, with its provision that the use of natural resources in the region should be governed by the principles of “polluter-payer” and “user-payer”, the obligation of the state to implement basic sanitation and solid waste management services in the river basins of the Pantanal, the required installation of Economic Ecological Zoning guidelines for infrastructure projects and the creation of a fund to encourage conservation initiatives in the region.

But, according to WWF-Brazil, the main change required to the legislation is the inclusion of the headwaters region in the tableland of the Upper Paraguay River Basin as a protected area. If this does not happen, efforts to conserve the Pantanal – limited to just the Pantanal floodplain in the current wording of the law – will be destined to fail. Deforestation at the headwaters threatens springs and water recharge zones, the flows of which could be drastically reduced, causing irreparable damage to the ecological balance of the biome. Numerous studies have demonstrated the serious anthropic pressure on the vegetation that protects the Pantanal's water recharge zones and the serious risks resulting from the deforestation of these areas. We must not miss this opportunity to introduce a Pantanal Law that really promotes the conservation of one of the most important biomes on the planet!