



WWF

NEWS

AGO

2017



© Raquel Cabrera / GMTI

UNE, VALUING THE WETLANDS OF BOLIVIA

The municipal government of Trinidad and WWF Bolivia join forces to promote the value of the wetlands of Bolivia.

On August 15th, in the city of Trinidad, an innovative environmental interpretation center focused on Ramsar and wetlands was inaugurated. Ramsar sites are wetlands with representative, rare and unique features found within a specific biogeographic region, which need to be conserved to ensure the biological diversity and ecosystem functions of the region. This center is the first of its kind in the country.

To highlight the importance of Bolivia for the conservation of wetlands that are of global importance, the municipal government of Trinidad, in collaboration with WWF, designed and implemented an interpretation center that promotes the environmental, cultural and social values of Ramsar sites. This is an educational space that provides access to critical information in a recreational and innovative way.

To date, Bolivia has designated 11 Ramsar sites, which cover a total of 14.8 million hectares, making it the country with the largest area of wetlands of international importance.

The name of the center is Une, which in the local mojeño-trinitario language, means water and is understood as an element that articulates different ecosystems. This name was chosen because the word summons and unites local stakeholders around the values of wetlands.

The UNE Center is inside the Pantanal Park, a green area in the city of Trinidad, considered the gateway to the largest Ramsar Wetlands Complex in the world, Llanos de Moxos.

The center provides general information on the process of wetland formation; landscape attributes, related species, changes produced over time and their relationship with local inhabitants, and their cultural and economic importance. It is envisioned as a space to develop environmental education activities, disseminate information and mobilize citizens on issues related to the wetlands of Bolivia.

It offers activities for a diverse audience, to promote the active participation of multiple stakeholders in the region. It is also a weekend attraction for local and international visitors.

WWF Bolivia was responsible for the technical support, training of staff, content definition and provision of equipment. The municipal government of Trinidad was responsible for the construction of the infrastructure, the adaptation of natural environment to achieve experiential learning, hiring of trained staff, and institutional support to ensure the sustainability of the center.



© Raquel Cabrera / GMT

Children from local school visiting the center.

The implementation of this initiative was possible thanks to funding from WWF International and the Wetlands for the Future Fund of the Ramsar Secretariat, with the support of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

This initiative contributes to WWF's global and national results, pertaining to the protection, conservation and restoration of freshwater habitats and populations of species linked to aquatic ecosystems. It also contributes to WWF Bolivia's sustainable societies and freshwater programs by strengthening values, actions and environmental commitments of civil society, and striving to ensure that freshwater ecosystems and flow regimes in key river basins provide water for people and nature.



© Raquel Cabrera / GMT

Central Exhibition Room, showing local means of transport.

For more information, contact:

Lila Sainz: lsainz@wwfbolivia.org