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WWFolio Bolivia

Quarterly digital publication on WWF's work in Bolivia

Edition Nr. 21 - September, 2010

Living editorial



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Sustainable development, everyone's concern

WWF is a non-profit organization that works for a living planet. It aims at halting the environmental deterioration and building a future of harmony between Nature and human beings. In Bolivia, the major goal of WWF is to contribute to the conservation of Amazonia and Pantanal, by promoting and generating sustainable economic opportunities both for the inhabitants and for the country.

We acknowledge the importance of the People Global Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights, organized by the Bolivian government to show the World that society has to be informed and consulted upon decisions relative to natural resources, since they directly regard all of us. We also praise the expressions and principles which state that caring for and sustainably handling Mother Nature's resources are necessary



to reach solidarity, equity, collective wellbeing and satisfaction of fundamental needs, including Human Rights.

Nowadays, our institution is experimenting a new step of growth and development, and we are focusing our efforts in supporting public policies. Taking advantage of our experience on the theme of climate change, we are thus starting a program of monitoring and infrastructure. Meanwhile, we are still making headways in our pledge to support protected areas, and to advocate forest handling and trade with socially responsible communities and firms. Being aware that these activities require a high level of coordination with different governmental authorities as well as international cooperation, NGOs, social movements, we opened an link-office in the city of La Paz.

In this WWFolio, you will be able to learn more about our activities with protected areas, strengthening of indigenous communities, the sustainable handling and use of natural resources, researches that give us a better knowledge of our biodiversity, education, spreading of technical information, and about productive sustainable development.

Here is a small outlook of our contribution to the country, through an active collaboration with people, organizations and institutions; reasserting our compromise with sustainable development, in the frame of a permanent purchase of a better life for bolivians.

Livingpantanal

Enlaces relacionados:

- Sinergia Program
- WWF's Pantanal Program
- Tropical Agriculture Research Center (CIAT)



Meeting on the Knowledge Management of the Pantanal and Chiquitania, with the participation of authorities and representatives of public and private institutions of both regions. © Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia



The event allowed identifying strategic lines for the information flow and coordination between the institutions of the Upper Paraguay River Basin. © Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia

First Chiquitano Pantanal Meeting: union of views

Puerto Quijarro was the venue for the *First Meeting on the Knowledge Management of the Pantanal and Chiquitania*, carried out on 28th and 30th June through an alliance between this Municipality and the Sinergia project, belonging to the *Centro de Pesquisas Pantanal – CPP* (Research Center of Pantanal) of the *Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso* (Federal University of Mato Grosso) – Brazil, with the collaboration of WWF. The event had the participation of representatives of the civil society and public and private organizations, with the purpose of presenting and discussing the information and processes generated in the Chiquitano region of Bolivian Pantanal, identifying like this the current problems contextualized in biodiversity, ecosystems and perceptions, considering the development area and the climate change in a transversely way.

The *Encuentro sobre Gestión del Conocimiento Pantanero – Chiquitano* was carried out considering that in the high part of the basin of the Paraguay River, several institutions make activities in favor of sustainable development of local population that have generated technical knowledge about the basin and particularly about the Pantanal in Bolivia, as well as important processes, social-environmental and institutional strengthening actions with their intervention.

According to the organizers, the sharing of information and social and institutional processes generated in the high part of the basin of the Paraguay River benefited to the identification of strategic lines for information and collaboration flow among institutions of the basin. This way, a common basis of knowledge on local actors was established, contextualized in biodiversity, ecosystems and environmental problems of the region, considering the development area and the climate change as transverse cores.

The presentation carried out by the *Sinergia* project of the Research Center of *Pantanal* gave the details of the effects of climate change in the basin of the Paraguay River, the adaptation strategies and society's challenges faced with climate change. "It is the first time that we have seen how science joins application, to make it know all the processes and the reason there is a climate change and a global warming", said Carlos Ragone, chair of the Asociación de Ganaderos de Roboré (Stockbreeders' Association of Roboré).

"The objectives were achieved", said Pierre Girard, coordinator of the Sinergia project, stating that "we informed the participants about climate change which is already happening, people learned and could put in order their knowledge, This way, they could recognize the vulnerability at a local level through their experience." And he added: "Besides, we strengthened the alliance between WWF and the Sinergia project of the Research Center of Pantanal, making a joint up that potentiated both institutions that work for sustainable development in the Pantanal."

Bolivian Pantanal is revealed in books as a source of education and biodiversity

Know to value... care to use... great challenges for Bolivian Pantanal

June 28th night, the Municipal Hall of Puerto Quijarro was the perfect scene for the launch of the books "Biodiversity of Bolivian Pantanal" and "Diversification and Integration of Environmental Education in the Bolivian Pantanal – Secondary Level", made by the Friends of Museum of Natural History Noel Kempff Mercado Foundation (FUAMU) and the Museum of Natural History Noel Kempff Mercado (MHNNKM) in collaboration with WWF.

The event, carried out for the the First Meeting of on Knowledge Management of the Pantanal and Chiquitania was decked out with the attendance of a large audience, as authorities of Departamental Government of Santa Cruz and Municipal Government of Puerto Quijarro, education authorities, teachers and students, and representatives of MHNNKM, FUAMU and WWF.



During the presentations, Climate Change was revealed as a factor impacting the Upper Paraguay River Basin and its dynamics. © Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia

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Books Pantanal Biodiversity and Transversal Environmental Education in Bolivian Pantanal.

© Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia



Presentation of the books aroused intense participation from municipal and educative authorities as well as professors and pupils of Puerto Quijarro. © Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia

Daniel Aruquipa, on behalf of the District Education Direction of Puerto Quijarro, pointed out that the launched books provide “updated information about the biodiversity of this fascinating region, which commits teachers to contextualize their curricula in the different fields of study for a better quality of education for students”. And he added: “We are sure that with institutions like WWF, authorities and citizens committed to biodiversity conservation and with the consciousness-raising in the care of our Pantanal, we will have a better quality of life.”

With regard to María Esther Montaña, FUAMU director, at the moment of the launch of the book Diversification and Integration of Environmental Education in the Bolivian Pantanal – Secondary Level, she stated that it was made together with specialists of the MHNNKM and teachers from the municipalities of Puerto Quijarro and San Matías, with the purpose of “including environmental knowledge in every subject field of secondary level, so students recognize and value the importance of environmental care and preservation.”

Pamela Rebolledo, coordinator of the Pantanal Program of WWF, said that the book Biodiversity of Bolivian Pantanal was written by local researchers, and “it is the first book of this quality made for Bolivian Pantanal, that

compiles the richest and updated information about the biodiversity of this wonderful and fascinating region”. Rebolledo finally declares that this kind of materials awaken curiosity and desires to know more the region, trying to sort out the unnecessary differences between science and its application, “the artificial differences between conservation and development.”

Good practices for cattle ranching in the Pantanal attract the interest of Bolivian and Brazilian ranchers

Brazilian technicians and cattle-ranchers shared in San Matías and in Santa Cruz their experience about how to implement good cattle ranching practices in the Pantanal, as well as the benefits they retired for themselves and for the environment.

The seminar Sustainable Stockbreeding Practices: Challenges and Perspectives in the Bolivian Pantanal were held in May through an alliance between the Center for Tropical Agricultural Research (CIAT), the San Matías Stockbreeders Association (AGASAM) and the San Matías Protected Area, in collaboration with WWF. The seminar was held in the headquarters of the San Matías Stockbreeders Association in the municipality of the same name, and was replicated in the city of Santa Cruz, in the Center for Tropical Agricultural Research.

This seminar was held within the framework of the Promotion of the Application of Good Cattle-ranching Practices in the Bolivian Portion of the Pantanal project, which according to Nelson Joaquín, head of the CIAT Research Department, has the aim to spread stockbreeding production experiences under

environmentally friendly practices in the Pantanal in order to revalue the production in the Pantanal and motivate the stockbreeding producers of Santa Cruz to implement these practices.

The speakers presented the application of good stockbreeding practices in the Pantanal, stressing the Brazilian experience in trying to avoid environmental impact and improving the stockbreeding production.

In the words of Fabio Ramos, Agrosuisse consultant and speaker of the seminar, traditional stockbreeding practices could cause a series of impacts on the environment, and states that “the main problems that they cause are a decrease in water quality, clearings and erosion, the use of fire to recover pastures and their sowing without forage intentions”. However, there is an alternative to avoid the environmental problems derived from stockbreeding practices: the application of environmentally friendly good stockbreeding practices.

Good stockbreeding practices can be summed up as activities that contribute to the development of sustainable production systems, practices that involve the recovery from environmental degradation states, practices that promote the preservation of natural resources and are economically feasible throughout time, the use of scientifically tested and proved technologies, and the elimination of practices that may cause a negative impact on the environment.

The speakers stressed the importance of using good stockbreeding practices, which would generate a better stockbreeding production. The application of these practices and the support of different public and private institutions, NGOs, universities, companies and associations, “served to strengthen the work of the Brazilian Organic Stockbreeding Association (ABPO), formed by organic stockbreeders who now export organic meat to Europe”, said Leonardo Barrios, ABPO chairman. “By applying environmentally friendly good stockbreeding practices, we have given our product an added value, selling a concept of respect for the

environment than many people are willing to pay for”, declared Leonardo.

And as Fabio Ramos commented, “there is a market for organic stockbreeding”. This was demonstrated by the Brazilian group JBS-Friboi, the biggest exporter of bovine meat in the world, which created a brand of organic meat and exported it to Europe. Now we have “a differentiated type of meat that complies with the requirements of the European market, which represents the biggest market in the world”, as well as the place where the Pantanal organic meat is sold.



Cattle ranching is the main productive activity in San Matías municipality.
© Victor Hugo MAGALLANES / WWF Bolivia



The Tropical Agriculture Research Center (CIAT) was where took place the seminar in Santa Cruz, with the participation of cattle ranchers, technicians, companies and institutions working in Pantanal.

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Pantanal park rangers:

Trained to preserve our Pantanal

Santiago de Chiquitos, a community in Roboré known as the Prelude to Heaven that protects the Tucavaca Valley, was the place chosen for the course “Training to Preserve our Pantanal”, which involved the participation of 22 park rangers and technicians from the Otuquis National Park and Integrated Management Natural Area (PN-AMI Otuquis), the San Matías Integrated Management Natural Area (ANMI San Matías) and the Tucavaca Valley Municipal Reserve, all protected areas of the Bolivian Pantanal. The goal is to strengthen the capacities of the conservation team of these protected areas of the Bolivian Pantanal through trainings on specific topics in order to strengthen their participative management.

This was done through an intense 5-day course that included classroom- and field-learning in three strategic topics selected by the staff of the protected areas: Conflict resolution, GPS and georeferential maps use, and environmental management, all led by experts with extensive experience in these topics.

Arrival and course

The course started on Sunday, June 13, in the Beula Hotel in Santiago, which served as headquarters for the next five days. The park rangers of the Pantanal started to arrive from places such as Santo Corazón, San Matías, Candelaria, Puerto Busch, Santa Cruz and Puerto Suárez. Friends who met again after a long time greeted each other affectionately, as well as those who met for the first time. It is worth noting that all the park rangers were born in the Bolivian Pantanal and have experienced living in the area.



The Environmental Management Course was praised by the staff of protected areas as a practical application of the daily tasks of park rangers. © Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia



In the course “Training to Conserve Our Pantanal” participated park rangers and technicians of protected areas Otuquis, San Matías and Valle de Tucavaca. © Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia

During the first days, the training was focused on environmental management and included the explanation of the Environmental Law, environmental management in protected areas, environmental inspections, and practicing the topics that were reviewed. The park rangers could recognize the activities and practices realized every day, improving their skills and capacities in order to enforce the law in the protected areas.

The topics of communication, negotiation and conflict resolution were addressed by a team from the UNIR

Foundation during the next two days. These were days of intense theoretical work where the assistants could learn about the aspects of negotiation, such as the following:

- Every negotiation involves an interaction or exchange between the parties with the purpose of obtaining something from them while giving something to them at the same time. Thus, it is important to define the parties involved in the negotiation.
- Every negotiation has the purpose of solving a difference by means of an agreement.
- On every negotiation, the parties need to have clear goals and the limits within which concessions can be made and an agreement can be reached.
- On every negotiation there must be a correlation of forces as balanced as possible.

Similarly, there were theoretical practices on negotiation and conflict resolution, using communication as a basic tool to reach agreements that benefited all the parties. There was also a negotiation simulation, where the park rangers formed two groups, sat on a table with the purpose of settling their differences and reaching an agreement that fulfilled the interests of both groups. According to PN-ANMI Otuquis park ranger Miguel Alegre, through these practices “we learn new tools and tactics to talk and settle our differences using agreements”.

To make this meeting even more entertaining, the Pantanal Cup was held Thursday afternoon with a game of indoor football between ANMI San Matías and PN Otuquis. It was a tough game on which the players defended their goals and attacked trying to score the winning goal. The winner of the athletic competition between the protected areas was ANMI San Matías, whose players had the privilege to lift the Pantanal Cup, a rotating trophy that will go to the winners of each tournament to be held in the future.

The last day of training was marked by the practice of GPS use with a trip around the mountains of Santiago, where they marked the covered route and the sites of interest that they found. The more experienced park rangers already had some experience using a GPS and maps, however, now we had the presence of recently hired park rangers who had no experience using these tools. “I knew about GPS, but I did not know how to use it in the way that we learned today”, said Narciso Soliz, a new ANMI San Matías park ranger.

According to the opinión of WWF field officer Victor Hugo Magallanes and the technicians who gave the classes, the five-day course in Santiago de Chiquitos was very helpful for the park rangers, as they received practical and permanently applicable information, which will help them improve their capacities and obtain better results on their tasks as the people in charge of the protected areas in the Pantanal.

The park rangers who participated in the event had similar opinions, and also emphasized the importance of sharing this training experience with their colleagues in other protected areas from the same region who experience similar conditions and problems and could apply everything that was taught on the course. “We thank WWF’s interest in supporting us in order to improve our work and benefit us with their experience”, said a park ranger, joining himself to the signs of gratitude and joy shown by everyone when they received their certificates of participation in the course.



GPS Management Practice in Santiago Hill.
© Giovanni VERA / WWF Bolivia



The National Area of Integrated Management (ANMI) San Matías won the Pantanal Cup. © WWF Bolivia

Livingamazon

Enlaces relacionados:

- WWF Bolivia's Amazonia Program
- Bolivian Institute of Forest Research (IBIF)
- Omacha Foundation



Permanent plots to monitor Brazil nut in the Bolivian Amazon

By: Juan Carlos Licona - IBIF



Information registering in the plots (quantity of coconuts, seed number ...) - community of Sacrificio.
© Victor Hugo GARCÍA / WWF Bolivia



Field Brigade for the implementation of permanent monitoring plots in the community of Sacrificio.
© Juan Carlos LICONA / IBIF 2008

Brazil nut harvesting is an activity that has increased in importance in the last 5 years in the department of Pando, in northern Bolivia, due to the increase in prices around the world. This activity represents more than 75% of the family economic activity for the 200,000 inhabitants of the Bolivian Amazon, taking into account that all of the Brazil nut production in the country is done in wild forests

The high harvesting pressure on this species has caused great concern about its current ecological conditions. While some years ago only part of the Brazil nut was being harvested, now almost all of it is being extracted. Likewise, forests are being altered to a greater extent every time, which may produce changes in the growth and production of Brazil nut pods. In view of this new scenario, we have the need to monitor some Brazil nut populations constantly so as to evaluate their production and natural regeneration capacities. Due to this concern, the Bolivian Forest Research Institute (IBIF), with the support of WWF, performed a diagnosis in the Manuripi National Amazon Wildlife Reserve in 2007 with the purpose of doing a research on Brazil nut and other non-timber products.

November 2008 marked the beginning of the first stage of Brazil nut monitoring through the installation of permanent plots in three communities (Sacrificio, Curichón and San Antonio) in the Manuripi Reserve, in coordination with the administration of the protected

area and the communities themselves. The three research sites were distributed on different places that represent different types of plant formations.

The second stage of Brazil nut monitoring in the already installed plots began in February 2009. During this evaluation, the yearly Brazil nut fruit production and some factors that determine fruit production were established. During the third stage, in March 2010, the Brazil nut production monitoring was done again in order to compare both evaluation periods.

This research hopes to determine the productivity of Brazil nut trees based on many variables, such as their diameter, shape and top position, micro-habitat, individual health, bejuco infestation, flowering and fructification and ground color, as well as the dynamics of the species (growth rate, mortality, and recruitment and variation of the Brazil nut population on both evaluation periods).

The monitoring process was realized with the active participation of the Brazil nut grove owners, which secured the permanence and good results of the installed plots, confirming that their participation represents an important part of the collection of data and the achievement of results. Finally, both the staff of the Manuripi Reserve and the representatives of the Extractive Peasant Association of the Manuripi Reserve (ACERM in Spanish) will be able to participate in the evaluation of the plots and the subsequent studies.

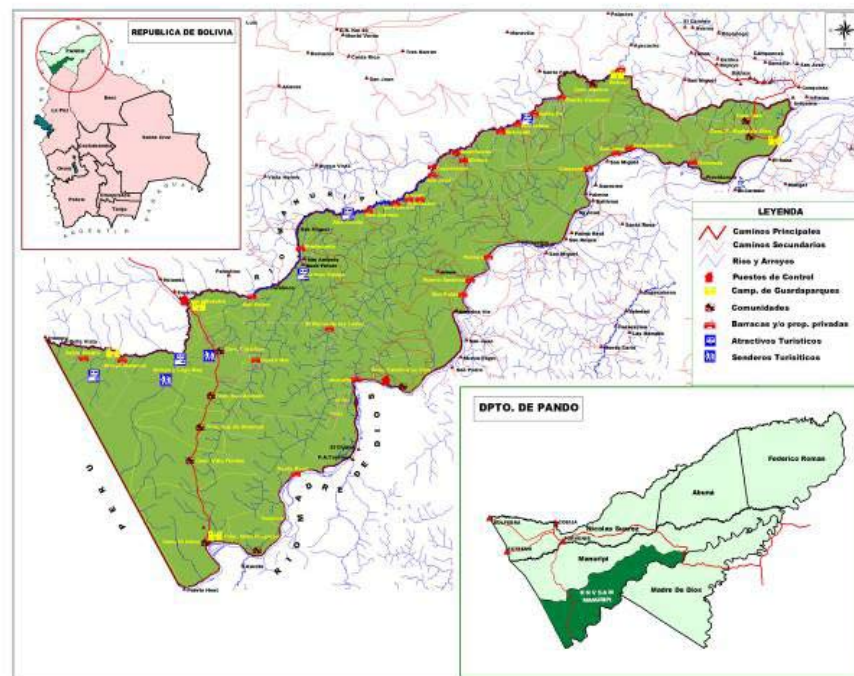


Figure 1: Localization of the three studied areas where were implemented permanent monitoring plots for chestnuts (communities of Sacrificio, Curichón and San Antonio.) Source: Strategic Plan of Protection 2008.



Curichón rural community members helping to implement the permanent plots.

© Juan Carlos LICONA / IBIF 2008

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Organizations launch a South American Conservation Strategy of River Dolphin

Thanks to the initiative and support from the organizers of the IX International Congress on Wildlife Management in the Amazon and Latin America, in Santa Cruz, the launch of the South American Conservation Strategy of River Dolphin was carried out and it was presented by Latin American researchers devoted to the conservation of this aquatic species.

River dolphins are one of the most threatened species around the world and they generally live in developing countries in Asia and South America, where human activities endanger them. Directed captures to be used as bait, negative interactions with fisheries, poisoning and hunting by fishers, pollution of rivers because of mercury and hydrocarbons, and their habitat fragmentation due to dam construction are their main particular threats.

According to Fernando Trujillo, researcher of Fundación Omacha, based on all these threats it was fundamental to know the conservation condition of these species,



The plan emphasizes the need to generate economic alternatives for local communities, ensuring the effectiveness of conservation strategies. © Fernando TRUJILLO / Fundación Omacha



River dolphins are among the most threatened species in the world.

© Fernando TRUJILLO / Fundación Omacha

and this way, a program of abundance estimate of river dolphins in South America was initiated, led by WWF and Fundación Omacha with the support of WCS and many other organizations from each country. "More than 7 thousand kilometers of rivers in the basins of the Amazon and Orinoco have been covered to train nearly 80 researchers from 9 countries", Trujillo said. The countries in which we have worked are Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

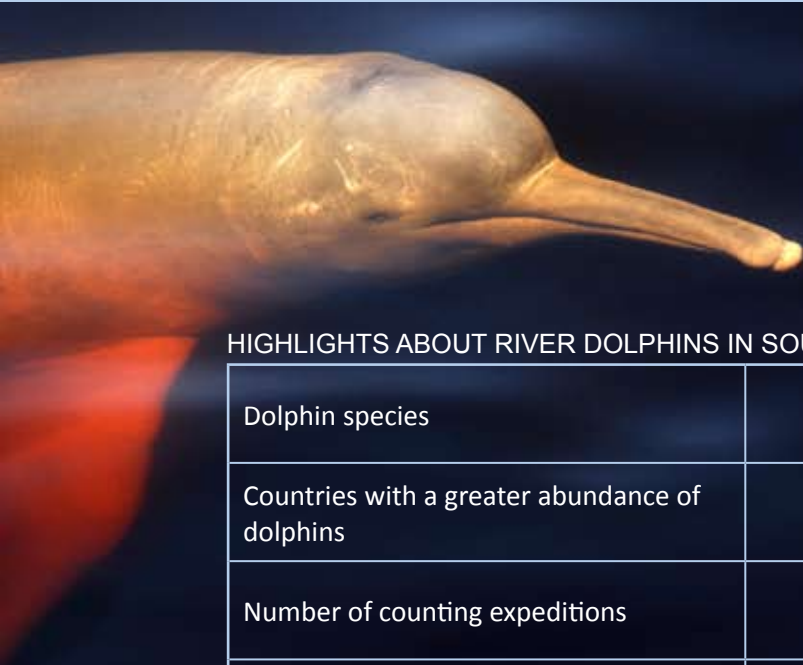
Through the interworking among government institutions, organizations, researchers and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, it was drawn up the River Dolphin Conservation Plan, where the most pressing actions are identified to guarantee the survival of these species in South America, emphasizing the need to evaluate and mitigate fishery impacts, stop directed captures of these cetaceans and evaluate consequences of dam and hydroelectric constructions on aquatic ecosystems.

This plan also emphasizes the need to generate economic alternatives for local communities in order to implement conservation strategies that are effective and go together with good living ideology and Mother Earth protection, states Fernando Trujillo.

Saulo Usma, the Fresh Water Coordinator for WWF NorthernAmazon & Chocó-Darién Regional Programme, explains that the strategy proposes an action plan for each country, corresponding to the own context of each nation. At the moment, the plans of Colombia and Bolivia have already been drawn up and they have the government support of every country, being a vital support for their implementation. This is a demonstration of interest and recognition of the importance of these species for national governments.

In Bolivia, it was confirmed recently the existence of an endemic species, the *Inia boliviensis*, which only

exists in our country, generally in Mamoré, Iténez and Madeira rivers. This fact has stimulated the research of this species, apart from promoting tool production to guarantee its conservation, says Paul Van Damme from FAUNAGUA, “important milestones has been achieved thanks to collaboration among research institutions, local actors, the government and conservation organizations”. And he clarifies that the most important milestone is the publication of this South American Plan for Dolphin Conservation, together with the conservation plan of the *Inia boliviensis* nationally.



HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT RIVER DOLPHINS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Dolphin species	3	<i>Inia geoffrensis</i> , <i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i> , <i>Inia boliviensis</i>
Countries with a greater abundance of dolphins		Peru, Bolivia (densities of more than 4 dolphins/km²)
Number of counting expeditions	11	Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia
Number of km covered	6987 km	Orinoco, Meta, Cuyabeno, Napo, Aguarico, Ucayali, Samiria, Amazonas, Javari, Iténez, Mamoré rivers
Researchers	76	Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, England, Sweden, Argentina, United States, Canada
Threats		Directed capture of at least 1600 dolphins per year in Brazil, dolphin poisoning by fishers (nearly 50 have been reported in Peru), dams
Dams in Brazil	8	Other 45 planned in tributaries of the Amazon
Benefits of observation tourism of river dolphins in the Colombian Amazon river	US\$ 8,3 million/year	Represented in tickets, hotels, river transport, services



The craft in its initial route by the Beni River, fully equipped to serve as a mobile camp. © COMUNICACIÓN / SERNAP

Mobile camp will contribute to the protection of the Manuripi National Amazon Wildlife Reserve

By: COMUNICACIÓN / SERNAP

The Riberalta naval base was the venue that witnessed the delivery of the “Manuripi” Mobile Camp, held on Friday, July 25. This event was attended by authorities and representatives belonging to the National Service for Protected Areas – SERNAP, WWF, the Management Committee of the protected area and the Riberalta naval base.

Jhonny Huanca, acting director of the Manuripi National Amazon Wildlife Reserve, said that the delivery of the vessel is part of the area protection strategy. He also mentioned that the vessel was obtained in the year 2008 and purchased in 2009, and the refurbishment and fit out works were finished in 2010.

On behalf of SERNAP's CEO arrived general counsel Crisanto Melgar, who stressed the importance of the mobile camp in improving the work of SERNAP. Likewise, he emphasized the need to strengthen the relationship with the Navy in order to optimize the use of the vessel.

The Chairman of the Management Committee, Rodolfo Jeréz, showed his gratitude on behalf of the protected area, emphasizing that he will favor patrolling, since the conditions weren't ideal before, “allowing for better control, as there are constant threats because of the resources”, he pointed out.

Frigate Captain Alex Segovia also expressed his satisfaction with the functions that the vessel will fulfill in protecting the area, and disclosed its main characteristics.

Víctor Hugo García, Pando Coordinator of WWF Bolivia, also mentions the importance of being present in places where threats proliferate. “We really value the work of

the park rangers, and we are doing everything we can to improve their working conditions; this camp meets all the habitability and operation conditions needed for extended patrolling". He also stressed that park rangers are responsible for looking after the vessel and the equipment, and using them in the best way.

Once the official act was over, the attending people boarded the vessel for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the launching of the Mobile Camp. Subsequently, the camp sailed the Beni river.

The vessel was purchased by SERNAP with WWF funds, thanks to an agreement signed by both institutions.

Speech by the Director of the Manuripi National Amazon Wildlife Reserve, Jhonny Huanca

"The Direction of the Manuripi Reserve is pleased to see the culmination of this process to which we have participated actively as an institution and together with the social actors of the Manuripi Reserve, as well as to have the support of other friendly institutions that have always looked after the well-being of our park rangers. Our threat analysis in the Strategic Protection Plan identifies activities on the Madre de Dios river that should be regulated, such as mining, hunting, selective felling and unsustainable harvesting of natural resources. So far, our park rangers have been executing their protection activities with equipment that has not let them maintain the continuity of their actions or stay on patrolling missions during extended periods of time; this vessel will let us travel across the river and commence strategic activities that can be quickly applied."



From left to right, Jhonny Huanca, Crisanto Melgar, Rodolfo Jeréz. © COMUNICACIÓN / SERNAP



Authorities and representatives from SERNAP (National Service for Protected Areas), WWF, the Protected Area Management Committee, the naval base of Riberalta, and park rangers, attending the boat inauguration. © WWF Bolivia



The Captain of the Manuripi craft navigating on the Beni River, with guests and authorities. © Dennis Ruiz

Livingforests

Enlaces relacionados:

- WWF Bolivia's Forest Program
- Responsible Forest Trade
- Community Forest Management

Trade-forest mission in Concepción

By: Orlando Melgarejo

The activities of sustainable forest management in indigenous communities are capitalized with the presence of a purchaser, which allows to generate more job positions and finish with benefit distribution for the whole community, what at the same time, promotes its sustainable development. Likewise, associated companies of the Red Global de Comercio Forestal, GFTN -as per the acronyms in English- need wood suppliers from forests managed sustainably to satisfy international market demand.

This way, in May, the town of Concepción received during three days the trade-forest mission “Comunidad – Empresa de GFTN Bolivia”, in order to offer a meeting place among the Empresas Forestales Comunitarias – EFC (Community Forest Companies) of the area, supported by WWF, and the companies buying wood that participate in GFTN Bolivia.

Five Empresas Forestales Comunitarias offering wood participated at the event: Asociación Indígena Maderera Cururú (AIMCU) and Asociación Indígena Forestal San Juan, from Guarayos; Empresa Forestal Indígena Comunidad Ayorea de Zapocó (EFICAZ), from Concepción; Asociación Forestal Indígena de Lomerío (AFIL), from the municipality with the same name; and



Community and private producers participating to the commercial mission.

© Luis Mario SANDOVAL / WWF Bolivia

Comité Intercomunal Forestal (COINFO), from San Ignacio de Velasco. The present associated companies of GFTN Bolivia were MADERSEC, from Cochabamba, Tropical Andes and DEKMA Bolivia, these two last ones from La Paz.

The trade mission lasted three days, in which technical visits to the communities offering wood were carried out; besides the business matching where business intentions that will involve nearly one hundred thousand US dollars for next year's harvest came up, strengthening this way, sustainable forest management in communities.

Lessons learned

Alejandro Crooker, from the company Tropical Andes, stated that the carrying-out of trade missions like this one opens up business opportunities both for communities

and private companies, as “there is an interesting wood potential in forests with approved management plans. In addition, communities think about Voluntary Forest Certification as a way to open markets for a greater number of species”. Like this, communities also prove that “they are aware of the need of sustainable development and responsible forest management (...) to be able to attain a reliable and responsible use” of the forest, said Alejandro.

Juan Carlos Ávila, from the company MADERSEC, comments that the trade mission in Concepción “has allowed us to see closely what communities do and have a better relationship and more confidence with them; now we have better conditions to make the purchase of raw material”. He finishes saying that through this meeting came up the need to make a strategic alliance in order to work on the forest with a greater benefit for everybody.

Pedro Charupá, member of EFICAZ, expressed his satisfaction for this initiative and stressed the importance of having reliable and steady purchasers to do business in a long term, but business people who buy all the wood supply of communities and not only the most commercially valuable species, so that there are benefits for the whole community.

Indigenous community of Zapocó: A success story

Zapocó is a Community Original Land (TCO in Spanish), located in the municipal jurisdiction of Concepción in the department of Santa Cruz, that has been working with forest issues since 2002. Since 2005, through the institution Apoyo Para el Campesino-Indígena del Oriente Boliviano (APCOB) and with the support of WWF, community forest management was strengthened through the training of local capacities that have allowed them to take on forest-related tasks, such as the forest census, tree knockdown, wood volume determination and dispatch.

Thus, this 44,000-hectare COL devised a Forest Management Plan that covers around 45% of its territory, administered by the Indigenous Forest Company of the Ayoreode Community of Zapocó (Empresa Forestal Indígena de la Comunidad Ayoreode de Zapocó - EFICAZ). In 2007, EFICAZ obtained a long-term contract (5 years) to sell wood through a bid, in the condition of knockdown and trimming, putting their acquitted capacities into practice.



Zapocó rural community members locating and filling the Origin Forest Certificate (CFO)

© Orlando MELGAREJO / WWF Bolivia



Zapocó chainsaw operator exploiting the wood. © Orlando MELGAREJO / WWF Bolivia

Through the years of work and the experience obtained in the process, the members of EFICAZ have improved their negotiation abilities, and in the meantime, their local capacities have been trained in technical subjects, thus moving forward in the production chain, offering knocked down and trimmed raw materials. At the same time, EFICAZ is a community forest company (CFC) that covers all its operating costs and part of the costs of forest professionals and accountants. The community company is contemplating starting the process to obtain the FSC forest certification and continuing to move forward in the production chain, offering their clients a greater added value.

As the community leader Pedro Charupá says, a culture of forest management has been developed, which favors coordination for the long-term sustainable use of the forest under the Bolivian forest legislation in force, which at the same time allows the community to receive benefits such as the generation of new jobs, health and education. And he also asserts: "The members of the community feel very committed to their forest".

Impacts of the Forest Management Plan

The direct benefits include:

- Generation of new jobs
- Reinvestment in the General Forest Management Plan through the adjudication of assets such as power saws and a van for forest activity
- The General Forest Management Plan pays 50% of a nurse's salary
- Support for education by purchasing school materials and uniforms
- Support for sports
- Annual payment bond for elderly people



The Origin Community Territory (TCO) disposes of a Management Plan including 45% of the territory.
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Rural community members are very pledged with the woods. © Orlando MELGAREJO / WWF Bolivia

EcoTips

Divide your trash between organic and inorganic products. This way you will contribute to re-use and recycle garbage, which will lower their environmental impact.



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for a living planet®

About WWF

The objective of WWF Bolivia, the conservation organization, is to contribute to the conservation of the Amazon and the Pantanal, promote and generate sustainable economic opportunities for its inhabitants and Bolivia in general.

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

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

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