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WWFolio Bolivia

Living

Editorial

An ever changing discipline

It has been said before and is something that still holds true till this day: conservation is an ever changing discipline. Notwithstanding its intrinsic characteristics of predictability in terms of seasons and global phenomena, nature still continues to surprise us and at times is highly unpredictable, more so for those of us who by nature are not very cautious nor convinced that God always forgives, man sometimes, yet nature never does.

Nature conservation presents us with many characteristics and ever changing conditions. But in modern times, change does not mean improvisation, and conservation is thus synonymous with

planning, process, learning cycle, adaptive management. It means: defining, designing, implementing, monitoring, disseminating and repeating an improved cycle while adapting it to new conditions and adjustments based on the context.

This WWFolio shows us just how diverse conservation work is. It is just as varied and rich as biodiversity. It requires multiple and complementary approaches along with flexibility and adaptation. And under this context, our Director and colleague for the past 10 years, Roger Landivar, has decided to leave the organization and pursue other personal activities, leaving us with a

wealth of experience and which we share in the following paragraphs.

When asking Roger what his most important recommendation would be for his successor, he was convinced that what most needs to be practiced in conservation is patience. Sustainable development and natural resource conservation projects are processes delivering results in the medium term, and it is important to keep this in mind and not become discouraged. "Even if we plan our projects in the best way possible, there will always be setbacks and complications, but it goes with the territory. The secret lies in developing our capacity to regain our spirit and



continue forward. This is the nature of processes of change in terms of the attitudes and practices regarding the environment which we want to promote”, concluded Roger. A sound piece of advice which I will keep in mind during my term as interim director beginning in January 2009.

We have realized, just as Roger has, that conservation is not just about bird watching. Notwithstanding, we genuinely hope that he can dedicate more time to this, his favorite hobby, since Roger has confessed that because of his passion for nature he hopes to spend at least two weeks out of the month in the field. As an amateur bird

photographer, a pastime which he neglected in the past few years due to work, Roger plans on resuming with force in this new phase of this life.

His colleagues and friends wish him a plethora of good photos, knowing how much he enjoys the adventure of taking them more than showing them; and we are certain that from the endless pampas in Beni – Amazon in northern Bolivia, hidden behind a palm tree and his camera, Roger will continue serving nature.

Adolfo Moreno
Conservation Director

Living Pantanal

A trans-border eco-regional focus for the Cerrado-Pantanal

The joint coordination of efforts between offices sharing activities in the same eco-region becomes more important for WWF globally in order to maximize the conservation impacts and results.

With this objective in mind, technical staff from both the Pantanal Programme and Communications for WWF Bolivia and WWF Brazil, are developing an eco-regional plan for the Cerrado-Pantanal for the next ten years.

Following WWF's Project and Programme Management Standards (PPMS), progress has been made in defining intervention and working priorities in the Cerrado-Pantanal in both countries.

In a complex and detailed process, conservation biodiversity targets, strategies and expected results were analyzed, aimed at producing a regional action plan for 2009-2019. In addition, several workshops are being held in each country to present the planning process to WWF Netherlands and WWF Switzerland, the donors funding this initiative.

For further information please contact:
prebolledo@wwfbolivia.org



Chichi the Cricket and Rosa the Butterfly take us on a visit to the Bolivian Pantanal

Aiming to contribute promoting a further sense of responsible citizenship, as well as awareness towards the Pantanal natural environmental and cultural heritage, the Center for Urban and Regional Development Studies (Cedure), in collaboration with WWF Bolivia, La Fábrica Film School and Channel 4 Carolina TV from Puerto Quijarro, are producing a TV programme entitled “Pantanal”.

The programme will be aired exclusively in the region beginning in 2009, and focuses on instilling a sense of value and appreciation regarding the region’s natural environment, yet in a manner that is entertaining, reinforcing empathy through local landscapes and characters.

This program, a result of WWF Bolivia’s “Pantanal is life” campaign, is aimed at children and young adults due to their openness and because habits are not yet fully formed in this target group, although the programme is suitable for a general family audience since it is also where behavior norms are formed and approved.

Chichi the Cricket (interpreted by the actor Roberto Kim) and Rose the Butterfly (Basilía Aragonez, a local actress), guide us through the wonderful world of the Bolivian Pantanal, its natural and cultural attributes, as well as economic activities carried out in the area, which over the years have achieved a balance between production and conservation, such as cattle ranching.

They also show us the threats faced by the region and how its inhabitants can make use of its natural resources in a sustainable manner to preserve this important wetland for future generations.

Johansen Hernández, a 14 year old boy from Puerto Quijarro, is the host for the programme and includes a call to action for the viewers.

Both Johansen and Rose the Butterfly are the result of a casting process in which 30 local candidates participated.

This initiative is part of Cedure’s Program for Citizen Formation, an organization based in Santa Cruz with experience regarding issues related to urban development, the environment, participatory planning and socio-cultural and psycho-social local aspects.

Once this TV programme is aired in the region, the idea is to negotiate its transmission on other regional and national channels.

For further information please contact:
voven@wwfbolivia.org



The work of craftswomen in the Bolivian Pantanal

Mrs. Asunta Mengarí is experienced in tanning leather. “I live in the middle of the Bolivian Pantanal, in Puerto Suárez, capital of the Germán Busch Province, and have been working for the past two years with artwork in leather crafts”, stated Asunta. She is also President of the Women’s Center for Hand Made Crafts, an association which is looking to establish itself legally and was inaugurated last September. This sustainable productive initiative, supported by WWF through our partner FaunAgua, is strengthening the capacities of the fishermen’s wives who make up the Germán Busch Fishermen’s Cooperative (Copegeb) in producing leather handicrafts, which allows 25 women to contribute to their family income. This initiative is part of the fishing management programme for the Bolivian Pantanal and promotes the integral use of fish, favoring the diversification of economic activities that revolve around sustainable fishing and with it, the valorization of aquatic resources and the environment which sustains them.

“We tan leather with tanning of the grinded bark of the curupaú tree (*Anadenanthera colubrina*) – a process known as tanning with plants. We place the leather in salted water first and then allow it to soak in a small tank with the grinded bark until it hardens, turning it over every now and then to make sure the color is even and ready to be made into handicrafts. The entire process can take 12 to 14 days”, asserts Asunta.

“With leather from the pintao fish (*Pseudoplatystoma tigrinum*) we are making diaries, for example. Other materials are also being used to make hats, belts, wallets and others, including key chains and coasters.”



The project also included training in leather tanning and production, such as hand made wallets, in order to improve their presentation, as well as strengthen their organizational and accounting skills, so that they can have a transparent financial system for the income generated by the sale of their handicrafts.

Part of the earnings are distributed among the participants of the committee, and the rest goes to a seed fund belonging to the association and destined to cover the costs of purchasing materials, tools and other related supplies.

The Women's Center for Hand Made Crafts includes a work area for cutting and manually sewing the crafts, an office and tanks where the skins are treated and tanned. "Before we had to take turns in the homes of each member", says Asunta, "but now we have our own center, where we can all work together comfortably as a group".

For further information please contact:
prebolledo@wwfbolivia.org



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Living

Amazon

Mercury contamination in the Iténez

The IRD (Research Institute for Development), in collaboration with WWF, has estimated the contamination in the San Martín and Blanco rivers –in the vicinity of the Bella Vista community– and the Iténez River, through a comparison study between areas with a low level of human activity and areas with mining (San Simón mountainous region), forestry and agriculture activities in the region of the Iténez Protected Area.

The contamination levels in terms of mercury in the aquatic systems (sediments and fish) have been evaluated in both areas and in the local riparian populations.

The preliminary results indicate that the waters along the Iténez River where communities inhabit have a greater level of mercury versus those from the rivers in Bella Vista.

However, the levels of mercury are still well below those considered to be hazardous to humans (the study detected an average of 3.17 micrograms of mercury per gram of hair –scientifically referred to as “µg/g”).





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The allowable limit of mercury in hair is considered to be 10 µg/g). On the other hand, the concentration of mercury in fish showed that those from the Iténez River registered almost twice the mercury versus fish from the region of Bella Vista. The Iténez and San Simón rivers are directly contaminated by the San Simon gold mine, however not the Blanco River.

The situation in terms of contamination in the Iténez River is not as worrisome in the short term, but the rates detected indicate that close attention and the gathering of information are necessary to see how it evolves over time.

The study established the foundation for several Bolivian university students, as well as one from the Netherlands, to

develop their master's thesis and undergraduate degrees; this was coupled with the participation in scientific conferences and became an excellent means for the wide dissemination of these studies. The San Simón University was given an award during the II Bolivian Ecology Congress for this study. IRD is preparing a scientific publication on the topic aimed at an international audience.

The Prefecture of Beni also participated, as well as staff from the Iténez Protected Area and inhabitants from the communities of Piso Firme, Remanso, Mateguá, Versailles, Nueva Brema and Bella Vista, which are part of the Iténez Protected Area.

For further information please contact: lsainz@wwfbolivia.org

Problems related to mercury

By: Marc Pouilly and Tamara Pérez (IRD)

In the Amazon, mercury is stored naturally in the soil and occurs in the atmosphere, as the result of diverse human activities (industry, burning of fossil fuels, etc.).

Natural disturbances (natural fires, erosion) as well as those caused by humans (slash and burn, deforestation, agriculture and mining) accelerate the release of mercury.

In particular, gold mining contributes mercury by the following means:

- Removal of sediments
- The use of this metal in the mixing process, in which case mercury is freed into the atmosphere causing an impact in a radius of at least 50 km.

Aquatic ecosystems are the main recipients of mercury, mainly because of precipitation of mercury into the atmosphere and the dragging of sediments rich in mercury, converting flooded areas in the adequate habitat for the microorganisms which promote the transformation of mercury to its organic form (methyl mercury).

Methyl mercury is better assimilated by live organisms and is more toxic than inorganic mercury, explaining why plants and animals have a higher percentage of methyl mercury in relation to the total mercury in their tissue, and even toxic levels in their neurological system.

Fish, for example, have the highest concentration of mercury and/or methyl mercury in the ecosystems, and because they are a primary source of food for riparian communities, they end up transmitting the mercury stored in their tissue to humans and potentially generating a public health problem.

For further information please contact: pouilly@ird.fr





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▶ The plastic garbage campaign

Communities in the Iténez Protected Area head towards a more sustainable future

Garbage is a problem that concerns us all, and the Prefecture for the Department of Beni, within the communication strategy for the Iténez Protected Area, has initiated a campaign to collect plastic garbage and exchange it for school supplies.

This new campaign, yet in continuation of the campaign to collect batteries carried out in 2006, aims to raise awareness within the inhabitants of the 14 communities within the Iténez Protected Area regarding the importance of generating less garbage and recycling.

It is important to point out the social and environmental commitment shown on behalf of the Prefecture and the Protected Area in jointly collaborating, as well as the participation of the general public in working to reduce contamination through simple activities and seeking to improve the environment in these communities.

If you would like to support this campaign by donating general school supplies and helping to keep the campaign going, please contact: Isainz@wwfbolivia.org

OUR PARTNERS

The Institute for Research for Development (IRD) in Bolivia

Created 1944, IRD is a French public science and technology research institute under the joint authority of the French ministries, in charge of research and overseas development.

The IRD has three main missions: research, consultancy and training. IRD collaborates with more than 40 countries, with 800 researchers and 1000 engineers conducting scientific programmes contributing to sustainable development, with an emphasis on the relationship between man and the environment.

IRD focuses on problems related to development: climate change, management of natural resources, access to water, preservation of ecosystems, health and food security, international migration, fight against poverty, etc.

IRD has been in Bolivia since 1970, and is one of the organization's oldest and most important counterparts in Latin America. Currently there are more than 10 scientific programmes in Bolivia; 25 French and 80 Bolivian researchers, as well as undergraduate, masters and doctoral students from universities in La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Sucre, Trinidad and Potosí.

To date, projects are implemented in Bolivia related to:

- Research and methods to fight diseases of vectorial transmission: malaria, dengue and Chagas
- Health and the environment
- Biodiversity management
- Climate change and hydrological resources
- Migration and governability; work, market and currency
- Urban risks and the vulnerability of large Andean cities.

For further information please contact: www.bo.ird.fr



© Fuerza Naval

► Community and military authorities, along with WWF staff and some of the trained military units

The Bolivian Navy and the Environmental Sentry Project

Between February and December 2007, WWF supported the Prefecture of Beni in signing an agreement with the Bolivian Navy for the implementation of the “Environmental Sentry” Project, in which all Bolivian Navy units stationed in the Department of Beni participated.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the support received on behalf of the Ministry of Defense, the General Commander for the Armed Forces and the Commander of the Second Naval District during the four training sessions, in making them a total success and allowing more than 1200 individuals from 12 military units to receive training, six of which are located in the area of influence of the Iténez Protected Area.

Flip charts and brochures were produced and used as basic training material. The training was hands on and covered information on natural resources, threats and prevention measures to preserve the environment applying sustainability criteria.

Captain Oscar Gámez Guerreo, Coordinator for the Environmental Sentry Project, indicated that “experiences such as this allow us to see that it is possible to contribute in forming environmental awareness in favor of defending Bolivia’s natural resources”.

WWF Bolivia hopes the initiative and experience thus far will also serve as an incentive for Bolivia’s Armed Forces to further coordinate efforts that ensure its continuity.

For further information please contact: lsainz@wwfbolivia.org



LIVING PUBLICATIONS

Biodiversity Conservation Vision for the Amboró-Madidi Corridor

The book “Biodiversity and Conservation Vision in the Amboró Maididi Corridor” was officially presented during the Book Fair in La Paz.

The Friends of Nature Foundation (FAN) was the overall technical counterpart for producing the book, and received support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International (CI) and WWF, organizations which provided technical and financial support for the field studies and printing.

WWF began supporting the initiative back in 2003 with funds from Usaid, which it channeled to FAN for developing the vision. FAN also accessed previous WWF investments in the Corridor that were carried out with other partners, such as the Center for Research and Teledetection Services (Cistel).

WWF is proud to have contributed to such a high quality product and the effort of several years of coordination with CI, TNC and such an important national organization, FAN.

The Amboró-Madidi Corridor is a part of the Bolivian Amazon and represents

12% of the national territory, of which 33% is legally protected through nine national protected areas.

Five percent of all orchid species on earth are found in this Corridor, for example.

It is also the greatest laboratory in terms of biological evolution in Bolivia, marked by its species richness and endemism, including species that are globally threatened and endangered elsewhere. The Corridor also forms part of the upper watershed for the Amazon River systems, making it of further ecological importance.

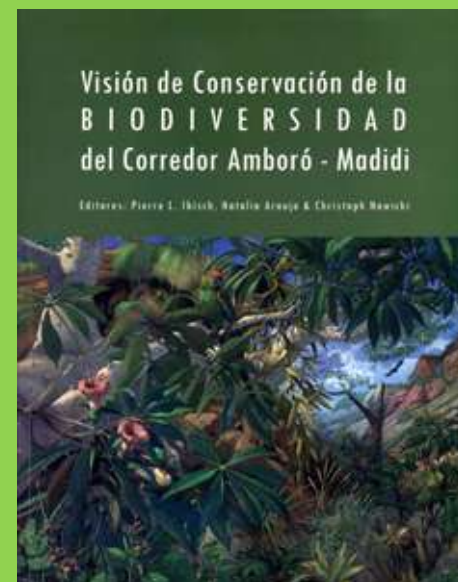
These are a few of the factors that demonstrate the importance of the Amboró-Madidi Corridor in terms of biodiversity conservation, as well as for social and economic development in Bolivia.

“It is an honor for WWF to have had the opportunity to support and disseminate research towards the conservation of natural resources in such a rich area as the Amboró-Madidi Corridor, and for which prestigious authors such as Pierre Ibisch, Natalia Araujo and Christoph Nowicki were a part of”, stated Roger Landívar, WWF Bolivia’s Country Representative, during the presentation

of the publication at the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Aecid) in Santa Cruz.

“We think that in addition to being of use to the scientific community, it is also a useful sustainable development planning instrument for local communities, authorities and many other types of stakeholders”.

For further information please contact: editorial@fan-bo.org



Living Forests

Public institutions and their commitment with the conservation of forests

The Autonomous Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra has taken its first steps in applying its plan for responsible purchases, in which suppliers must have proof of the legal origin of the wood products purchased on behalf of the municipal government.

During the first six months of the year, the Chief Administrative Officers for Human Development, Public Safety and the Secretary for Parks, Gardens and Educational Infrastructure have included in their technical specifications the presentation of Certificates of Forestry Origin (CFO) as a first step, so that gradually they can ensure the responsible consumption of wood and its products.

The Chief Administration and Finance Officer also reported an important accomplishment: the acquisition of certified paper with the FSC logo for all municipal offices.

WWF Bolivia has been supporting the municipal government of Santa Cruz since 2007 in its process to promote the adoption and implementation of the Responsible Purchase Policy for Forest Products as an opportunity to actively involve this institution in the conservation of Bolivian forests.

With support from WWF Bolivia, the Autonomous Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra issued an Administrative Resolution in 2007 (Nr. 190/2007) establishing a Responsible Purchase Policy to promote the consumption of forest products from legal sources under management and / or FSC certified.



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► Seminar on forest experiences exchange

For the remainder of the year, WWF Bolivia, in coordination with the municipality, is planning to implement a training workshop for key employees responsible for acquisitions to reinforce their knowledge regarding the forestry regime, sustainable forest management, verification of origin and FSC certification.

For further information please contact: gpena@wwfbolivia.org

In addition, a “Twining Agreement” was subscribed to in 2007 between the Barcelona City Council and the Bolivian municipal government. Spain and Bolivia have joined together to preserve the future of forests which are threatened by deforestation, climate change and illegal logging. The initiative aims to facilitate technical support for implementing the Responsible Purchase Policy adopted by the Barcelona City Council in 2005, based on recommendations made by WWF Spain, and which has also been assumed by the municipal government of Santa Cruz together with WWF Bolivia in 2007.



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▶ Bolivia FTN Business Mission in 2008

The Bolivia FTN promoting national certified forest supply

The Coordinator for WWF Bolivia's Forest and Trade Network (FTN), Ms. María del Carmen Carreras, participated in two forestry sector business roundtables in Cochabamba and Tarija organized by the Bolivian Furniture Institute.

These events were the perfect opportunity for the Bolivia FTN to participate and promote market links with interested buyers for FSC certified wood products or those in process of certification, as well as disseminate information regarding the benefits of participating in the Bolivia FTN.

Companies in Tarija (Acacias Ltda., Macerfor, Acosta Muebles and Los Tajibos, to name a few), and Vanguard Muebles, Brocante Muebles, Madervaf and Industrias Sali Ltda. in Cochabamba, established initial business contacts with good prospects towards developing, in the mid term, responsible forest trade and thus, contribute to conservation and the sustainable development of Bolivia's forests.

For further information please contact: mcarreras@wwfbolivia.org



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More Life

4^o **SEPTIEMBRE** **BOLIVIA**
DÍA NACIONAL DE LAS ÁREAS PROTEGIDAS

A decade has passed since the National Service for Protected Areas (Sernap) became an independent body under the Ministry for Rural Development, Agriculture and the Environment, in charge of coordinating the National System for Protected Areas and guaranteeing their integral management; this is the fourth consecutive year that we celebrate the National Protected Areas Day in Bolivia.

Bolivia is one of the fifteen most diverse countries on the planet with 22 national protected areas covering more than 15% of the national territory.

In addition, Bolivia has protected areas that are departmental, municipal and private.



Protected areas generate an important number of services for the population:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of natural resources such as wood, fibers, food, medicines
- Protection of infrastructure: forests in the Amboró Protected Area curb the behavior of the Ichilo, Yapacaní and Surutú rivers, as well as many others which originate within its limits
- Provision of water
- Climate regulation
- Pollen production and shelter for insects pollinating agricultural crops
- Recreation and tourism: Madidi National Park and the Eduardo Avaroa Reserve are important tourism destinations, generating vital income for some of the municipalities in which these areas are located, and in some cases, their primary source of income
- In addition, Bolivia has been able to develop a system in which it has experimented, established and consolidated numerous management and financial tools, such as management committees, trust funds, and entrance fees, among others.



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WWF Bolivia's support for protected areas

WF Bolivia currently supports the following protected areas: Iténez and Manuripi (Amazon), San Matías and Otuquis (Pantanal), in activities ranging from environmental education, development and publishing of scientific studies, demarcation of park boundaries, mechanisms to articulate between municipal government and protected area administration, institutional management processes, sustainable productive projects in certain areas, among others. In previous years, WWF Bolivia also has supported other areas in the Amazon, such as Bruno Racua, Tiquipaya, Amboró, Carrasco and Noel Kempff Mercado.

WWF Prince Bernhard Scholarships for Nature Conservation

A major constraint facing conservation efforts is the shortage of technical and professional capacity at local and national levels. By supporting environmental education, WWF hopes to foster local conservation leadership, enhance local involvement in work to protect the environment, promote partnerships for conservation amongst a range of stakeholders, and help reinforce the impacts of the WWF's conservation programme.

The aim of the WWF Prince Bernhard Scholarship Fund (PBS) is to provide financial support to individuals wishing to pursue short-term professional training or formal studies that will help them contribute more effectively to conservation efforts in their country. As a priority, PBS supports mid-career training for those working in the field of conservation and associated disciplines directly relevant to the delivery and promotion of conservation (i.e. media, law, and education). Applications are encouraged from those seeking to build skills in specific subjects that will enhance their contribution to conservation. In particular, women and people working for non-governmental or community-based organizations, are encouraged to apply.

"The investment in people, I think, is one of the most promising ways in which we can contribute to the future success of conservation." HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Twenty-two scholarships were awarded in 2008, 10 of which were for candidates from Latin America and the Caribbean, among which Mr. Fernando Alfaro Ayllón was selected from Bolivia. The application deadline is January 12, 2009.

For further information please visit:
www.panda.org/scholarships





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▶ Team assessing a map of Jurueña National Park in Brazil

Delivering Large-Scale Conservation Results

WWF Programme Management Standards for Ecoregions and Large Programmes

WWF has produced a field guide for planning, managing and monitoring its largest conservation programmes as a blueprint to develop strategies, align partners and resources, and deliver results in our largest priority programmes.

The guide is based on the WWF Standards of Programme Management; a set of guidelines, tools and best practices sanctioned by WWF International as the principal means by which we will carry out conservation worldwide.

WWF created the standards from tangible, field tested tools and practices, as well as private- sector management expertise that has been adapted for conservation use.

WWF Bolivia, in coordination with WWF US, has translated the guide into Spanish for use by other Spanish speaking WWF offices and our partners, including directors, ecoregional and landscape coordinators, as well as other staff dedicated to conservation – directors for governmental offices and foundations working in large scale, complex conservation programmes.

For further information please contact:
amoreno@wwfbolivia.org



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WWF

The global conservation organization



WWF's ultimate goal is to stop and eventually reverse environmental degradation and to build a future where people live in harmony with nature. Our promise to the world is that through working together, we will find the best solutions to save nature. For more than 40 years our passion, commitment, and inspiring actions have made us the most recognized independent conservation organization on Earth.

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WWF Bolivia • Av. Beni, calle Los Pitones 2070 • Tel.: +591-3-3430609 • Fax: +591-3-3430406 • Santa Cruz, Bolivia • wwfbolivia@wwfbolivia.org • www.panda.org/bolivia