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WWFolio Bolivia

Living

Editorial

The agenda for the upcoming year

A new year begins and, as we do with our personal and family life, we ask ourselves what will happen with our jobs, with the country, the region and the world, since everything is linked together. There are numerous questions, expectations are high and anxiety begs us for urgent answers... and hopefully ones that are positive.

The panorama, however, is unclear for our work in biodiversity conservation. Whatever the political tendency, or even if a constructive understanding is achieved between the currently confronted parties in Bolivia, nature and the environment usually still end up paying a price.

The consumption of natural resources for development or subsistence is always on the increase at a steady pace, impregnable, regardless of what the statistics tell us indicating a negative, null or stagnant growth rate.

The subsoil continues to contribute fossil fuels that man then transforms into green house gas emissions; the land continues to expose itself and is used for crops and pasturelands, many of which go to feed farm animals that are later slaughtered and consumed by a population that is persistently growing; forests continue to be cut down and, in Bolivia, the rate is unprecedented with areas the size of roughly 43 soccer fields per day being cut down; the air continues receiving strange contributions of unsolicited aromas, colors and densities; the wind has even become harsher in the eastern plains; unseasonable downpours rip up trees, knock down ravines and bury entire villages and even cities. In summary, the natural environment that nurtures and welcomes us also angrily reveals itself and tells us that its fury can be uncontrollable if we continue provoking it.

How do we revert these tendencies without dying of hunger in the process? How do we move forward without tripping over ourselves? Nobody knows. However, we all know that conservationists need to keep seeking the

answers and ways to try and somewhat balance the unequal fight with outright developers, placing ourselves on the side of equilibrium, constructive dialogue and hopefully, without quarreling with those who only side with their immediate interests. As conservation organizations we continue to be indispensable. Our role as guardians becomes more valid with each passing day, as active activists, as responsible administrators of resources, as the ones insisting upon the same issues that haven't changed, as warehouses for information, disseminating scientific information, as storytellers of our natural history, as planners for the use of natural resources, as agents for consensus.

And with all this, the agenda is full for the year that is just beginning...

Adolfo Moreno
Conservation Director

Living Pantanal

3rd edition of “Pantanal Gang” educational magazine

During the first trimester of 2008, the third edition of the “Pantanal Gang” magazine will begin circulation in the municipalities of Puerto Quijarro and San Matías. This publication is part of the environmental education efforts of WWF Bolivia’s Pantanal Programme. The magazine focuses on promoting awareness of the Pantanal, as well as educating in an entertaining way by using eight iconic characters typical of the Pantanal ecoregion: Capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*), Piranha (*Serrasalmus* sp.), Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus yacare*), Stork (*Jabiru mycteria*), Marsh deer (*Blastoceros dichotomus*), Giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and the wise Paratodo (*Tabebuia aurea*). The third edition will be dedicated to providing information on WWF and its work and activities in Bolivia and the world. Keep an eye out for it!



OUR PARTNERS

Friends of Noel Kempff Mercado Museum Foundation (Fundación Amigos del Museo Noel Kempff Mercado - Fuamu)

Over the past 10 years WWF Bolivia and Fuamu, as well as other organizations, have been working together on environmental education. We would like to take this opportunity to provide further information on this partner organization.

Established in 1999, Fuamu is a non profit organization set up by a group of individuals who also support the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum, an academic institution which Fuamu aims to support.

Its board of directors consists of academics and members from the business community. It develops activities oriented towards conservation and planning for the sustainable use of natural resources while promoting existing capacities within the Museum, as well as actions based on the technical and scientific human resources within the organization. Funding is obtained from public and private organizations, donations, etc.

Fuamu, in alliance with the Noel Kempff Museum, is progressing towards becoming a research center and national reference for policy development. Its programmatic areas consist of the following:

- Education for sustainable development: In which WWF Bolivia's work is inserted with environmental education in the Bolivian Pantanal, through the participatory construction and implementation of a contextualized formal educational curriculum for the Bolivian Pantanal.
- Protected areas: Technical justification for their creation, management plans and zoning
- Monitoring and determining changes in land use
- Management of natural resources: Impacts from climate change on biodiversity, management of flora and fauna
- Habitat restoration
- Support in dissemination and exchange of environmental information.

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Living Amazon

WWF special report: Climate change speeds up Amazon's destruction, says WWF

A vicious feedback loop of climate change and deforestation could wipe out or severely damage nearly 60 per cent of the Amazon forest by 2030, says a new report from WWF.

The report from the global conservation organization "The Amazon's Vicious Cycles: Drought and Fire in the Greenhouse" reveals the dramatic consequences for the local and global climate as well as the impacts on people's livelihoods in South America.

For Bolivia this would mean the disappearance of the cloud forests, since the regional climate would inhibit the rain and high elevation clouds that are the necessary conditions for this ecosystem to exist, a process that has already led to the extinction of golden toads (*Bufo periglenes*) in the Central American cordillera (Lawton *et al.* 2001). Current economic trends and climate change at regional and global scales could also destroy important ecoregions of the Amazon region. Given current trends, many species of animals, including several primates, will lose more than 80% of their primary forest habitat over the next few decades.

"The importance of the Amazon forest for the globe's climate cannot be underplayed," says Dan Nepstad, Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Research Centre in Massachusetts, and author of the report. "It's not only essential for cooling the world's temperature but also such a large source of freshwater that it may be enough to influence some of the great ocean currents, and on top of that it's a massive store of carbon."

Current trends in agriculture and livestock expansion, fire, drought, and logging could clear or severely damage 55% of the Amazon rainforest by 2030. If, as anticipated by scientists, rainfall declines 10% in the future, then an additional four per cent of the forests will be damaged by drought.

Global warming is in fact likely to reduce rainfall in the Amazon by more than 20%, especially in the eastern Amazon, and local temperatures will increase by more than 2°C, and perhaps by as much as 8°C, during the second half of the century.

With further destruction of the Amazon forests, less rainfall in India and Central America is anticipated, as would rainfall during the growing season in the grain belts of the US and Brazil.

Strategies to halt deforestation in the Amazon include minimizing the negative impacts from cattle ranching and infrastructure projects, and rapidly expanding the existing network of protected areas.

To download the report, please access:

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/amazonas_eng_04_12b_web.pdf



The community of Versalles and its commitment with protecting River turtles

As of July 2007 the community of Versalles, together with park guards and in collaboration with WWF Bolivia, has been monitoring River turtles (*Podocnemis expansa* and *Podocnemis unifilis*) in the Iténez River of the protected area that carries the same name.

This initiative is part of the local community involvement in natural resource protection activities in view of the need for conservation and sustainability regarding species. The most interesting aspect of this project is that the community itself took on the initiative in direct coordination with the park guards of the Iténez Protected Area (PA). Six community members became responsible for monitoring nesting sites on four beaches on the Iténez and San Simón rivers.

To determine the conservation state of the Turtles, local technical staff used a diagnosis regarding the use of local communities of these resources and, in this way, be able to identify current threats to the turtle populations. The work carried out by the volunteer community members consists in obtaining information that can be used as input for the future development of a Turtle management plan for the northern area of the Iténez PA, as well as surveillance activities during the nesting and egg laying season.



The Giant South American turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*) is classified as “lower risk/conservation dependent” (LR/cd) on the IUCN Red List 2003, and listed under Appendix II (which means the species is not necessarily currently threatened with extinction, but may become so unless trade is closely controlled) of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) – and the Yellow-headed sideneck turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*) is classified as “vulnerable” by IUCN, and is also listed under Appendix II of CITES.

The main causes for the reduction in their populations in other areas in the lowlands of Bolivia is indiscriminate hunting for commercial purposes, as well as the excessive consumption of their eggs, the logging and clearing of areas surrounding rivers, and damming of rivers, which can cause the water cycle to be drastically altered. This can confuse the turtles' natural seasonal cycle of nesting, which is timed to the alternation of floods and low flows. In addition, premature rising of rivers can flood nesting sites, causing reduced hatching success.

Both species are considered crucial for maintaining the biodiversity within their habitats, due to their important role as dispersers of fruits and seeds, and these Turtles hold third place in fulfilling this role after monkeys and birds (Conway, 2004).

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Podocnemis expansa

The Giant South American turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*) belongs to the Podocnemidae family and is the largest river turtle in the Amazon and Orinoquia.

Females measure between 70 cm up to 1 m and males range from 30 to 55 cm. The females lay 150 to 180 eggs once a year and the incubation period is roughly 45 days.

This primarily herbivorous species feeds predominantly on the fruits of riparian trees. Leaves and stems are also taken, as are freshwater sponges and occasional insects or carrion.

Podocnemis unifilis

The Yellow-headed sideneck turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*) also belongs to the Podocnemidae family and lives in the Amazon and Orinoquia rivers.

The female is larger than the male, and its tale is shorter and wider. Females can reach a size of 35 to 68 cm long and weigh more than 8 kg as adults.

It feeds on vegetable matter: grasses, fruits, leaves, carrion and mollusks.

The Yellow-headed sideneck turtle lays 10 to 35 eggs twice a year on sandy beaches along rivers. This occurs during the dry season and helps impeding the eggs from being carried away by flooding. The eggs hatch in roughly 60 to 80 days.

The greatest threat to both species (*Podocnemis unifilis* and *Podocnemis expansa*) is the illegal harvesting of eggs on behalf of some fishermen and communities, who then either eat or sell them. Additionally, hatchlings are also sold in the illegal pet trade.



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► *Podocnemis unifilis*

Errata

We apologize for the misspelling of the scientific name of the Spectacled bear in the previous edition of the WWFolio. The correct spelling is *Tremarctos ornatus*.

Tremarctos ornatus

The Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) is the only representative of the Ursidae family that inhabits South America and descended from the bears that crossed Asia and North America. In fact, the shape of the skull of the *Tremarctos ornatus* resembles that of the Giant Panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*).

The distribution range of the Andean bear in Latin America runs from the Andean mountainous regions of Venezuela to southern Bolivia, and covering the Andean regions of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and occupies several habitats with altitudes ranging from 250 to 4000 m.a.s.l.

A distinguished characteristic of this bear is the presence of white or yellowish markings in its snout, around its eyes, neck and chest. The shape and extension of the markings varies among individuals and it's not rare to find individuals with their faces completely black. These variations have been the base for a wide designation of different names across their distribution area.

These bears are omnivores, and are well adapted to a diet of tough, fibrous plants. In the wild, they eat fruits, berries, seeds, sprouts, bromeliads, small mammals and even carrion, insects, and birds. Wild fruits are one of their favorites, as well as succulent parts of bromeliads and other plants. Farmers often blame the Andean bears for killing livestock, but studies of the bears' droppings (scat) show that only around five percent of their diet is meat.

Because the Andean bear's diet contains so much fruit, it plays an important role in rainforest ecology: the seeds that they eat are excreted in their droppings as they move through the forests, spreading the seeds over long distances.



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► Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*)

This produces the next generation of fruit trees and promotes diversity in the forest.

For further information visit:

http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/11/12_pr_bear.htm

Promoting environmental education in the Municipality of Tiquipaya

The Municipal Wildlife Reserve of Northern Tiquipaya is located in one of the most biodiverse areas in the country, encompassing ecological characteristics that enable its high diversity in terms of flora and fauna, in many cases including endemic species. The North Andean deer (*Hippocamelus antisensis*) and Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), are a couple of the large mammal species found in the area. In terms of flora, there are timber species such as Cedar (*Cedrela* sp.) and Andean alder (*Alnus acuminata*), accompanied by Tree ferns (*Cyathea* sp.), Bamboo (*Chusquea* sp.), diverse species of orchids, mosses and lichens.

The Reserve is located between the Mosetenes Mountainous Region and eastern foothills of the Andes, in the northern portion of the Municipality of Tiquipaya, Quillacollo Province, in the Department of Cochabamba (Bolivian Amazon). The Municipal Government of Tiquipaya, in coordination with the Center for Ecology Defense and Rural Development (Cideder), and in collaboration with WWF Bolivia, has been implementing an environmental education strategy in the Reserve.

The strategy is a result of a participatory effort between the communities within the Reserve, the Educational Office, as well as teachers from the schools in Tiquipaya, who together developed an educational and communication proposal – using a baseline diagnosis – aimed at conserving the Reserve.



© WWF - Canon / Hartmut JUNGIUS

▶ The North Andean deer (*Hippocamelus antisensis*)

“The idea is to develop educational strategies as well as disseminate information in order to transfer the values and practical skills needed for the conservation of the Reserve”, stated Hans Rocha, Director for Cideder.

Among the activities carried out we can mention: awareness workshops and environmental education training for promoters, teachers, communities and indigenous offices; promotional and dissemination activities. The communication tools used ranged from posters, pamphlets, educational fact sheets, to informational bulletins – launched by the Municipal Government of Tiquipaya – and included the development of a documentary and promotional video entitled “A trip to Northern Tiquipaya Municipal Wildlife Reserve in the Bolivian Amazon”, aimed on informing the local population of the environmental services and richness of the Reserve.

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The end of 2007 coincides with the closing of WWF Bolivia's field office in Cobiya

In December 2007 the second phase (2005-2007) of the Project Amazon Headwaters Initiative, financed by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and WWF US, was concluded.

In Pando the Project was oriented towards supporting conservation and sustainable development in the Manuripi and Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserves, timeframe which also coincided with the implementation of the Bosque y VIDA Project, financed by the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

The activities of both projects were implemented in close coordination with the National Service for Protected Areas (Sernap), the office for the Bruno Racua Reserve, the Decentralized Unit for Protected Areas' Administration (Udaap) dependent upon the Pando Prefecture, Agro-extractivist Cooperative of Pando (Coinacapa), Agro-industrial Association for Natural Resources of the Manuripi River - Pando (Aaarenarmapa), Amazon Filadelfia-Bolpebra Union of Associations (MUAFB), José Manuel Pando Foundation, Monte Verde, Herencia, Research and Promotion Center for Farmers (Cipca), Farmers Association of Ecological Extractivists of the Manuripi Reserve (Aceerm), Association of Councilors of Pando (Acopando), Bolivian Forestry Research Institute (Ibif), San Miguel Radio, Care, Conservation International (CI), SNV, Tropenbos International (TBI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).



© WWF / Eduardo Ruiz

Among the most important achievements for 2007 we can mention the implementation of an administrative structure within the Udaap, including an office for the Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve with a protection staff made up of members of the community of Nueva Esperanza and who were incorporated as park guards; conformation of a management committee for the Reserve consisting of the main actors involved; participatory development of the management plan for the area and provision of equipment and infrastructure for the Bruno Racua Reserve.

If the proposal we have presented is funded, in spite of no longer having a physical presence in Pando, we will continue to provide support, although to a lesser degree, for several activities in the Manuripi Reserve, as well as continue exploring the sustainability for the management of the Bruno Racua Reserve, which will be done from our field office in Trinidad, in coordination with our office Santa Cruz.

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Living Forests

Tools for the application of the Responsible Purchase Policy become effective in the Municipality of Santa Cruz de la Sierra

The participation of approximately 120 people and the elaboration of four Action Plans were the results obtained from the workshops on Responsible Purchase Policy (RPP), aimed at municipal employees who are responsible for the acquisition process on behalf of the municipal government, as well as the companies that supply these goods (furniture stores, carpentries, paper industry, etc.).

From September to December these workshops provided the structure to allow government employees to learn, first hand, the objective of the RPP, as well as develop a strategy for its gradual implementation, based on the requirements for forestry products in the municipality for the upcoming years, learn about the technical terminology regarding RPP, current Forestry Law and Verification Standard of Origin from the Voluntary Council for Forestry Certification (CFV) and the Bolivian Institute for Standardization and Quality (Ibnorca), to support the link between the demand and the supply of responsible forestry products, while, at the same time, receive training in drafting conditions and requests for purchase of forestry products.



© WWF / Soledad MEJÍA

▶ Responsible Purchase Workshop, with Santa Cruz Municipality's representatives

This training package would not be complete without the assistance of an educational audiovisual training tool such as video. For this, WWF and *Fuentes Audiovisuales* produced four educational videos to aid the workshops. The audiovisual material covered the following topics:

- Bolivia's forests
- Concepts related to forest management and trade
- The role of government and companies
- WWF Bolivia's Cities for Forests initiative

Thus, the training package consisted of the aforementioned videos, plus the Responsible Buyer's Guide for Forestry Products and information brochures which WWF will deliver to the municipal government and other involved actors in order to further assist them in the successful implementation of their RPP.

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The Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra's Responsible Purchase Policy, signed with WWF at the beginning of July 2007 through Administrative Resolution N° 190/2007, aims to promote within the Municipality the consumption of forestry products from legal sources or those that are under management and / or certified, and thus contribute to the conservation of Bolivia's forests.

One Tree Bolivia book

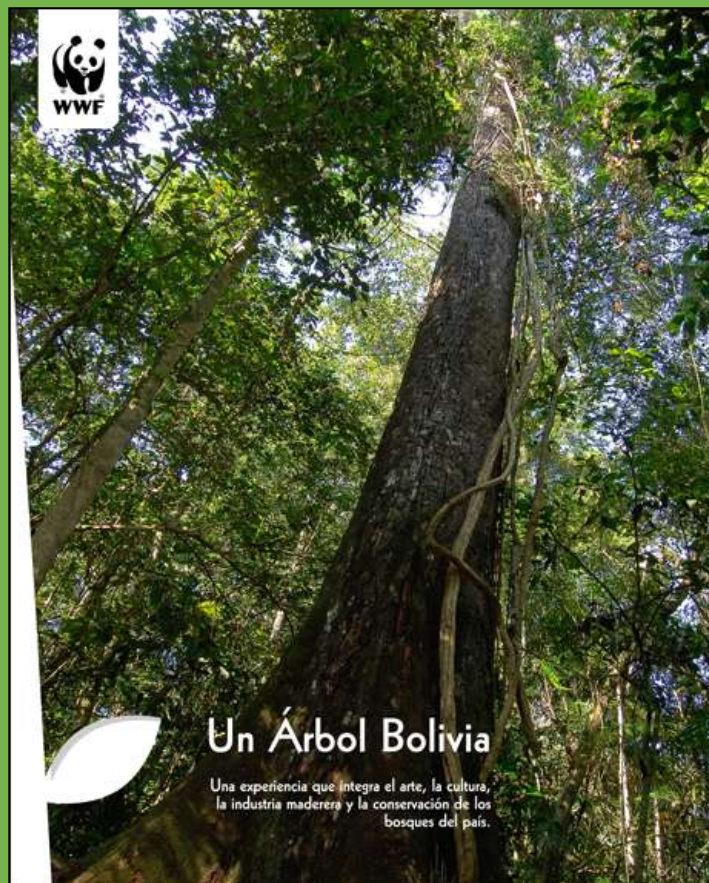
This book systematizes the One Tree Bolivia campaign, an experience in environmental education developed under WWF Bolivia's Forestry Programme during 2006-2007.

The campaign integrated conservation, wood industry and art, bringing together more than 60 national artists – including designers, architects and carpenters – who together created 210 pieces of art from one single *Cariniana estrellensis* tree. This experience also reflected upon the importance of sound forestry management and the interaction with man – community members, transformation companies, final consumers – and is a plea for the responsible use of forest resources.

The book compiles 15 months of work and is one of the most complete art catalogs thus far published in Bolivia.

The Manzana 1 Art Gallery is the institution responsible for the sale of the book and will use the funds to set up a seed fund for the organization of the 2nd International Sculptors' Workshop for certified wood in Bolivia. The first workshop was carried out in October 2006, and was organized as part of the One Tree Bolivia campaign. By purchasing this book you will be directly contributing to the upcoming sculptors workshop, and thus, also help to continue raising awareness regarding the sustainable use of forests.

Sales: Manzana 1 Art Gallery:
valia@cotas.com.bo; Tel.: +591-3-3395792



Forestry educational manuals for the Zapocó community

WWF Bolivia has been supporting indigenous communities in their sustainable forestry management for the past 14 years. Currently, the management component of our Forestry Programme seeks to develop management models for community forest enterprises by strengthening local capacities, training in business management and monitoring of productive units, guaranteeing transparency in forestry management. These activities are monitored through WWF's Stepwise Approach to Forest Management and Certification.

Within the work agenda carried out with the Zapocó Indigenous Communal Land (referred to as TCO), WWF's partner NGO Apcob (Support for Indigenous-Peasant People of Eastern Bolivia) is developing the educational manuals to reinforce several concepts that are being managed within the Zapocó Community Based Forest Enterprise (ZCBFE).

The Zapocó TCO is made up of 55 families and conforming the Zapocó Community Based Forest Enterprise (ZCBFE), under a strictly productive structure.



© WWF / Gustavo YBARRA

► Kid of the Zapocó Community

General Forestry Management Plan Manual

This manual targeted the ayoréode indigenous community of Zapocó emphasizes the importance of managing their community forests through a General Forestry Management Plan (GFMP), showing the financial and other benefits that can be obtained and generated through the commercialization of sustainable wood: infrastructure to improve local conditions, distribution of a percentage of the earnings at the family level, etc.

In a similar manner, the manual presents, in a simple format, the recommended steps for developing the GFMP according to the current forestry legislation.

Functions Manual for the Zapocó Community Based Forest Enterprise (ZCBFE)

The main objective of this manual is to inform the forestry workers and community members in general on the functioning of the ZCBFE, including its different levels of organization (community assembly, elder's council, community authorities, field operation and production group) and the role each one plays in the forestry activities.

Zapocó Technical Forestry Council Manual

This manual aims to socialize within the Zapocó TCO the conformation and functioning of this dialogue platform, so that participating actors in the GFMP coordinate activities and make participatory decisions in favor of the forests' sustainability.

This Council is made up of the Zapocó CBFE, as well as the buyer for the wood; however, the Forestry Superintendence in Concepción, the Municipal Forestry Unit of Concepción, the Sub-prefecture for Concepción, Apcob and WWF also participate conducting arbitration.

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More Life

Bali launches climate negotiations, weak on substance

During the XIII United Nation's Climate Change Summit – held in the first two weeks of December – 10,000 representatives of 180 countries worldwide negotiated and debated on this “hot” issue in Bali.

WWF stated that the leaders of the participating countries in the Summit closed a deal that “falls short in its ambition”, since the text of the agreed final document does not reflect the reduction range required by the industrialized countries in compliance with the recommendations of UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).



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"A strong, well-funded mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) will enable tropical forest countries to develop their economies without destroying their forests. In doing so, they will make a real contribution to mitigating global climate change," says Rodney Taylor, Director of WWF's Global Forest Programme.

Political leaders meeting in the Summit hammered out a deal which launches formal negotiations with a 2009 end date and a new agreement to relieve Kyoto. Governments negotiated the future treaty that would cut developed countries' emissions 25 to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020.

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Curiosity

Speaking of Bali as the venue for this Summit, it's interesting to know that the celebration of their New Year, known as Nyepi Day, or Silent Day, strictly prohibits the following activities: using light, taking part of any activity, travel or amusement; it's a day of respect that returns them to nature. New Year in Bali is scheduled for March 7th this year.

Living Finances

As we informed in the previous edition of WWFolio, WWF Bolivia's main working scheme is granting national institutions funding for a project aligned with the common agendas of the partner organizations and WWF, and of course in compliance with the agreements with WWF Bolivia's donors.

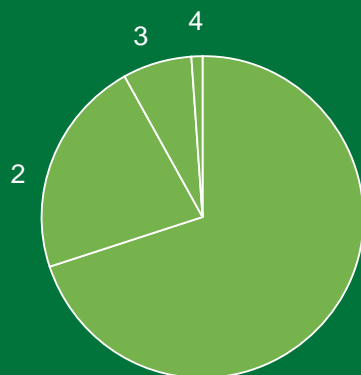
During fiscal year 2007 (July 2006 to June 2007), WWF Bolivia's budget was US\$ 1,316,603. This money was invested almost in its entirety for projects within WWF Bolivia's three programmes (Amazon, Forest and Pantanal), and a small percentage in general institutional activities as shown in the following graph.

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► *Victoria regia*



Grants per Programme

- 1 Amazon 70%
- 2 Forest 22%
- 3 Pantanal 7%
- 4 Institutional 1%

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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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