



WWFolio Bolivia

FOR A LIVING PLANET

Informative publication regarding WWF's work in Bolivia

5th Edition – March 2006



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LIVING Editorial

promoting local buyers to gain awareness in terms of responsible forest management through a change of attitude in terms of buying trends that contribute to reduce the commercialization of wood from illegal or unknown sources/origin (at least 50% of the wood that is consumed in Bolivia comes from illegal or unknown origin). Without giving up in terms of our support to fix new external markets for traditional or lesser known species, we have decided to focus on a change of attitude regarding national consumers.

With much hope and enthusiasm we will launch our initiative of Responsible Purchasing of Forest Products at the IV Bolivian Tropical Forest Trade Fair, Expoforest in which we hope to involve the government (national, departmental and municipal), corporations and institutions in adopting policies and commitments that favor the purchase of wood that comes from forests that are under legal and technical management and if possible and in a gradual manner, with FSC certification.

We hope that you will join us in helping to spread the word on this initiative believing that, at the end of the day, it is our attitude and daily choices that can contribute to serious, real and long-lasting changes that will lead to the conservation of our forest resources.

Adolfo Moreno
Conservation Director

WWF Bolivia promotes responsible forest trade

Faithful to our mission in contributing to stop environmental degradation and promote a world in which humans live in harmony with nature, WWF Bolivia is opening up a new field of institutional action: that of promoting economic agents as actors of change contributing in an informed and decided manner, through the goods they purchase, in promoting the management and responsible purchasing of forest resources.

Notwithstanding the achievements reached in terms of certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in Bolivia, we see that there is still much to be done so that a greater number of forest resource users, along the entire productive chain, feel that the responsible management of this resource is the means to construct a strong and solid forest economy while at the same time conserving the forests.

For this reason we felt encouraged in working towards

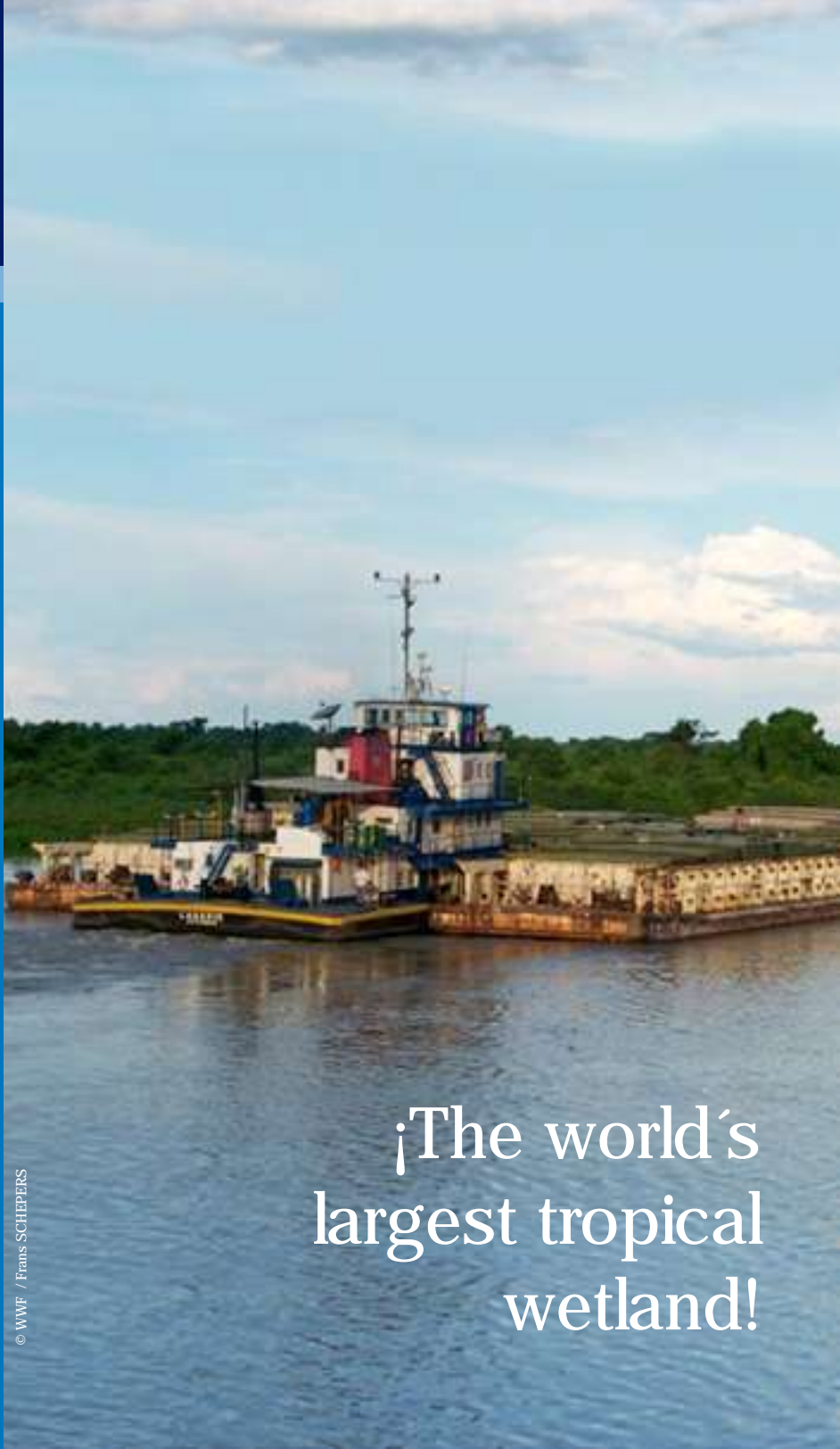
LIVING Pantanal

Reaction to the Puerto Busch Study

As informed in the last edition of the WWFolio in December, the Puerto Busch Study was widely distributed at both the national and international level producing a series of reactions which are summarized below.

At the local level, the authorities from the Municipality of Puerto Suárez interpreted the publication as a document that went against the consolidation of the Project and thus asked WWF to close its office in Puerto Suarez. For this reason, since the end of 2005 WWF ceased implementing projects in this municipality which covers approximately 24% of the Bolivian portion of the Pantanal ecoregion.

At the national level, in October 2005 a discussion began between the Ministry of Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Public Works due primarily to contradictions identified in WWF's Study versus the infrastructure Project proposal for Puerto Busch presented by the Bolivian Port-Railway Society (referred to in Spanish as SFPB). The discussion was taken to the National Council for Economic Policies (referred to in Spanish as CONAPE), calling



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wetland!



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Aerial view of northern section of the Pantanal

upon both Ministries to compare and verify the information.

Under this scenario, in November, the Ministry of Public Works requested a field verification of information but in which WWF did not participate respecting the decision of the Municipal Government of Puerto Suárez asking WWF to suspend its activities in its jurisdiction. The Ministry of Sustainable Development drafted a totally independent report but that coincided with WWF results presented in the Study. The Ministry of Public Works, on the other hand, presented a totally contrary report ratifying the SFPB Project.

With these two, contrary reports the CONAPE suggested that same month to hire an independent

consultant in order to respond to a technical questionnaire developed by both ministries as a means of arbitration. The answers presented by the consultant were accepted by the CONAPE; however, WWF, through a document analyzing the results produced by the consultant demonstrated that these do not support the viability of the SFPB proposal.

In December, the National School for Advanced Studies and the Superintendence for Renewable Natural Resources (referred to in Spanish as SIRENARE) organized a public debate regarding the issue and in which WWF presented its findings.

At this time, the General Director of River and Lacustrine Transportation from the Ministry of Public Works gave a presentation on the project which ended up being a manoeuvre to attack WWF and

make accusations against the organization and its participation in the process.

In addition, the League for Environmental Defence (referred to in Spanish as LIDEMA) and the Bolivian Environmental and Development Forum (referred to in Spanish as FOBOMADE) showed great interest in the results from WWF's Study and took it upon their own initiative to independently disseminate the results to the general public. In addition, they called upon competent authorities to take into account the results presented in WWF's study.

Furthermore, there are other studies which were carried out at the request of the government (Ministry of Public Works and financed by the World Bank) and presenting similar results to those of WWF but whose distribution was obstructed by the previous governmental authorities responsible for making decisions regarding the project.

WWF considers the construction of a port and railway in the Pantanal as a positive alternative even if it takes place in the Dionisio Foianini Triangle but only when and if these are well constructed and fully comply with the social, economic and environmental aspects that would guarantee their long term sustainability.

To see a complete copy of Study in Spanish or the Executive Summary in English as well as the fe de errata please access the following link:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/latin_america_and_caribbean/where/bolivia/publications/publication.cfm?uNewsID=24336&uLangid=4



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LIVING Amazon



Souvenirs to support the Ambooro National Park

In 2005, the Foundation for the Development of the National System for Protected Areas (referred to in Spanish as FUNDESNAPE) together with the Ambooro Protected Area, and in collaboration with WWF and funds from USAID, supported the initiation of a process to produce and sell souvenirs as a strategy to generate funds in support of the financial sustainability of the Ambooro National Park.

The Ambooro Protected Area is considered one of Bolivia's most important natural patrimony treasures.

Its 637,600 has encompass four ecoregions (Amazon, Chaco, Cerrado and Andes) and include a rich array in terms of biodiversity including approximately 3,000 species of plants, 100 amphibians, 100 reptiles, 800 birds and 120 mammals. Its beautiful landscape and closeness to



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the largest city in the Department of Santa Cruz make Amboro a highly visited protected area with hundreds of tourists visiting to enjoy its rivers, waterfalls, forests and mountains.

The official launching of the souvenir initiative was in December of 2005 and currently much of the souvenir stock as been depleted.

The success of the initiative lies in that the funds generated from the sale of souvenirs will re-finance the production costs of the material (25%) and 75% of the funds generated will be invested specifically in the running of the Amboro Interpretation Center.

In addition, it is hoped that this initiative will encourage other protected areas to duplicate the experience.

Itenez Fishing Committee

Meetings and workshops are being carried out with the participation of diverse actors in order to define the role and composition of the Itenez Fishing Committee located on Bolivia's border with Brazil and forming part of the Southwest Amazon ecoregion.

The objective of this committee is to support the fishing actors enabling them to carry out a sound management as well as a sustainable use of the hydro-biological resources.





© IPHAE

FaunAgua, in collaboration with WWF, is promoting this initiative together with the Mamore Fishermen's Association, fishermen, Itenez Departmental Park and ANMI, the Office for Natural Resources and the Environment from the Prefecture of the Beni, the Beni Autonomous University and other conservation NGOs.

The initial function of this committee is purely promotional considering that fishing committees are not yet considered under Bolivian law. Thus, the proposals and consensus must be standardized through prefectural resolution or municipal regulations.

Social and civic strengthening for sustainable management

The Institute for Man, Agriculture and Ecology (referred to in Spanish as IPHAE), together with WWF, implemented a process regarding modalities to contribute to sustainable community development through organizational strengthening. The effort was aimed at promoting the participation of the inhabitants from nine communities in the Iténez (Bella Vista, Puerto Chávez, Cafetal, Bahía La Salud, San Borja, La Soga, Piedritas, Nueva Brema and Buena Vista) regarding decision making process for issues related to the sustainable management of natural resources.

The process consists of two levels; the first is related to training and technical assistance provided at the community level (including authorities) in areas of citizen rights and community organizational strengthening and secondly, focuses on social, legal and organizational promoters that have been democratically elected in each community.

"A total of 1,272 community members participated in the two phases of the Project implemented by IPHAE" indicated Ms. Roxana Salas, a specialist in

the organizational strengthening of grassroots organizations and responsible for this workshop.

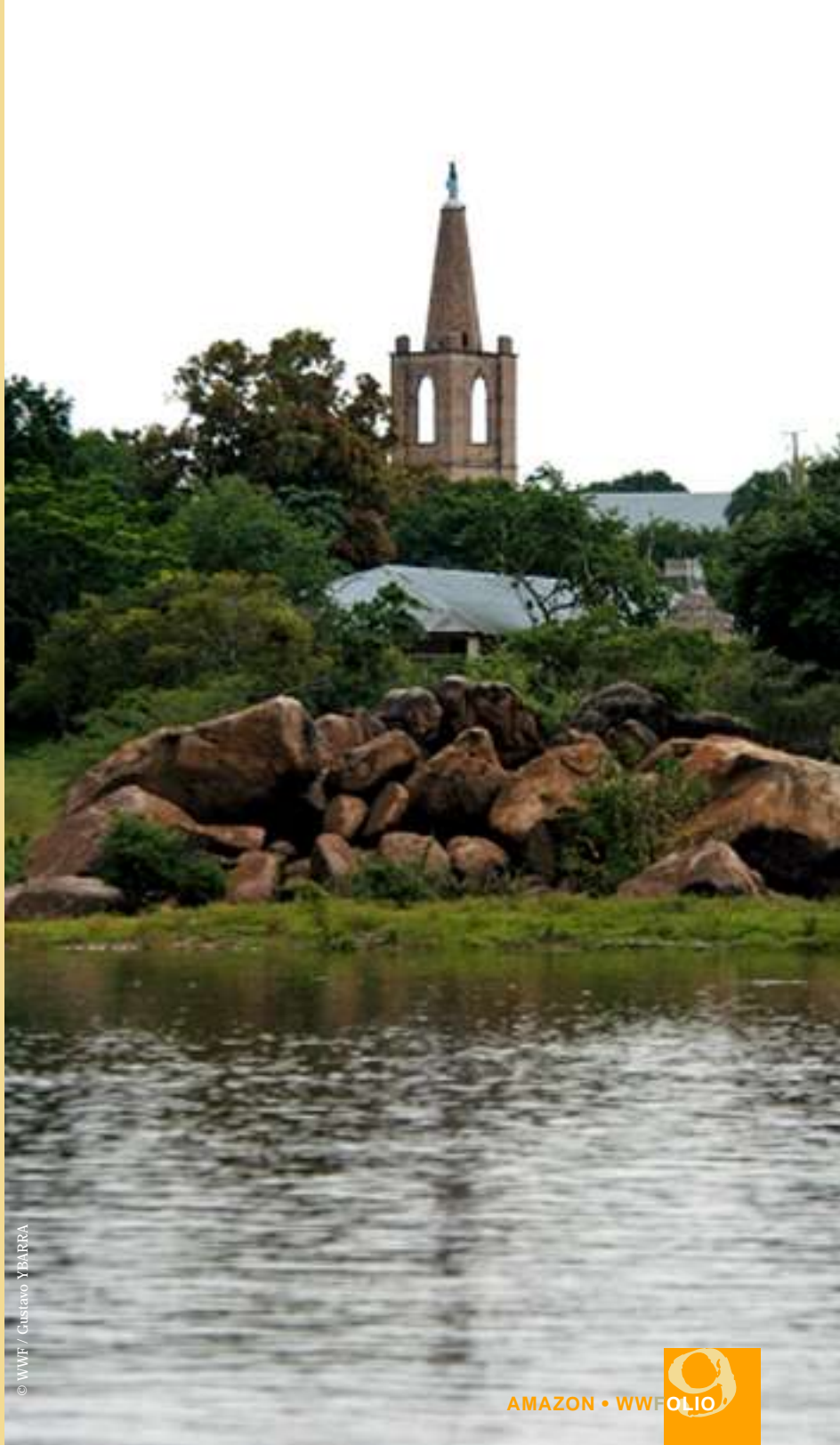
At the request of the community members, the need emerged to continue with the training which will be possible for 2006 thanks to the generous support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and WWF Sweden.

Handicrafts in the Iténez

The production of handicrafts can become an important source of income for the communities located in the Iténez. With this in mind, the NGO FaunAgua, in collaboration with WWF, has promoted the production of handicrafts made from fish (*Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum*) and caiman (*Caiman crocodiles yacare*) skin from animals that were legally hunted and thus generating income for the community of Bella Vista. In addition, the management plans have also helped learn about the importance of preserving the hydro-biological resources.

In its first stage, the Project worked with surubi leather and produced only one product, notebook covers, and received an order to produce 200 covers which were exported to Europe.

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An example of land use planning



Interview with Mr. Máximo Aillón Martínez, Mayor of Bolpebra and Vice President of the Amazon Union Association of Filadelfia-Bolpebra (referred to as MUAFB)

With the regional planning framework that allows for the adequate use of renewable natural resources, the MUAFB is developing Municipal Plan on Land Use Regulation (referred to as PMOT in Spanish) for the municipalities that make up the Association. If land use planning takes into account, in addition to the socio economic considerations, the environmental aspects as well then it will contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources.

What is MUAFB objective regarding land use planning?

Specifically the objective is to expand alternatives for the conservation of the forest through a strategy that seeks creating sustainable productive opportunities that allow for the adequate use of the natural renewable resources and at

the same time improve the standard of living of the local population.

What expectations does the municipality have regarding this activity?

The inhabitants are expecting that common activities, such as clearing of plots of land for crops, become regulated. In addition, through the PMOT, a more equal distribution of the benefits will be planned. Once this is organized there will be additional and better opportunities for continued existence for current and future generations. In addition, once we have our PMOT we can prioritize our investment in accordance with the demands that emerged during the process.

What is the next step after the PMOT?

We will aim to implement the PMOT believing that it can be a pilot experience to show results at the departmental and national level and thus also be an example for other municipalities.

PARTNER PROFILE

Amazon Union Association of Filadelfia-Bolpebra (MUAFB)

Created in July 2004 based on a process for land planning, the Association concentrated on the conservation and natural resource use in the municipalities of Bolpebra and Filadelfia, located in the Department of Pando and covering an area of 14.199 Km2 with a population of 5,264 inhabitants.

The objectives of MUAFB are:

- Promote the sustainable development and conservation in both municipalities
- Jointly manage the resources shared by both municipalities
- Capture financial resources to carry forward the activities of the Association
- Strengthen the municipal management of both municipal governments.

The MUAFB is the implementing organization under the framework of the Bosque y VIDA Project (in which CARE, CI, SNV, TBI, TNC and WWF participate) and thus responsible for the projects “Generation of institutional and grass root capacities for land use planning” and “Formulation of the Land Use Planning Plan in Border Municipalities (Filadelfia and Bolpebra)”.

Part of the Municipality of Filadelfia encompasses a portion of the Manuripi Wildlife National Reserve. The Municipalities of Filadelfia and Bolpebra encompass primary forest where the extraction of forest products such as rubber, Brazil nut, palmito and wood constitutes the main economic activities for the areas inhabitants followed by agriculture and cattle ranching.





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Manuripi - Pando

Strategic tri-national proposal for the sustainable management of the forest

In view of the Southwest Amazons ecoregional richness based on its important biological diversity, the Bosque y VIDA Project, “An Integral Vision for Development in the Amazon” is developing a second phase concentrating on the construction of a regional strategic vision developed under a participatory planning process.

This process aims to recover the experience and vision of the involved sectors in terms of conservation and development issues in the tri-national region that includes Pando (Bolivia), Madre de Dios (Perú) and Acre (Brazil). It is based on the thematic guidelines defined during the first phase of the pilot Project between 2004 and 2006 (land use planning, management of forest resources and institutional strengthening).

For the strategic proposal for the second phase three sets of meetings are being held with local actors that have been organized into two working groups and which are working on the basis for the development of the proposal under a common vision for the region, identifying threats, opportunities and formulating more adequate strategies in terms of this context.

Once the consultation process is finalized the information will be systematized in order to draft a preliminary proposal that will later be discussed and validated before being presented to the Embassy of the Netherlands in May.



Forest ^{LIVING}

Exchange of experiences between Bolivia and Peru

WWF Bolivia's Forestry Program promoted the exchange of experiences with specialists from WWF in the area of forest management and certification.

Aiming to improve as well as strengthen WWF Bolivia technical staff and partner organizations in the area of Voluntary Community Certification, Mr. Miguel Pacheco from WWF Peru, an expert in group certification and Step Wise Approach, visited Bolivia. Mr. Pacheco visited the Bajo Paraguá Indigenous Community Organization (referred to in Spanish as CIBAPA), located in the north eastern section of the Department of Santa Cruz to provide support in the first evaluation for compliance with the SAGC as stipulated in their General Forest Management Plan.

In addition Mr. Pacheco visited Concepción (Department of Santa Cruz) where he met with representatives from the NGO APCOB ("Support for Farmers from Eastern Bolivia") and exchanged experiences regarding the application of the forest regency management model for community certification under the FSC scheme.





Visits were also made to certified bolivian companies for both forest management and chain of custody and which received recognition last year at the national and international level for their role in helping Bolivia achieve its leadership position in terms of FSC certified tropical forest.

WWF will bring international buyers to the 2006 Expoforest

During the last three years, Bolivia's Wood Industry and Natural Forest Business Trade Fair (known as the Expoforest) held in Santa Cruz has become a highly recognized specialized event. Initiated by Bolivia's Forest Superintendence, the event is heavily promoted and organized by a group of public and private organizations linked to the management,

conservation and transformation of forest resources.

WWF and the Global Forest and Trade Network (referred to in English as GFTN), are participating in the IV Expoforest with financial support from the International Finance Corporation - World Bank Group enabling the visit of five foreign companies that are potential buyers of timber products from Bolivia and which will also participate in the 2nd Business Roundtable of Bolivia's Wood Industry scheduled for March 23 – 24, one of the Expoforest's most important activities.

In addition, WWF and the GFTN for Bolivia will promote the 2nd Business Roundtable of Bolivia's Wood Industry as well as the 2006 Expoforest 2006 through the 30 member countries of the GFTN located in the United States, Africa, Asia and Europe.

Support will also be given so that Indigenous Communal Lands (TCO in Spanish) from different forestry areas in Bolivia can participate in the Expoforest. The event will also offer presentations by international experts specialized in markets for certified products and other relevant topics under the general timber commerce context. This is an exceptional event considering Bolivia leadership role worldwide in terms of its more than 2 million ha of FSC certified forest.



LIVING Publications

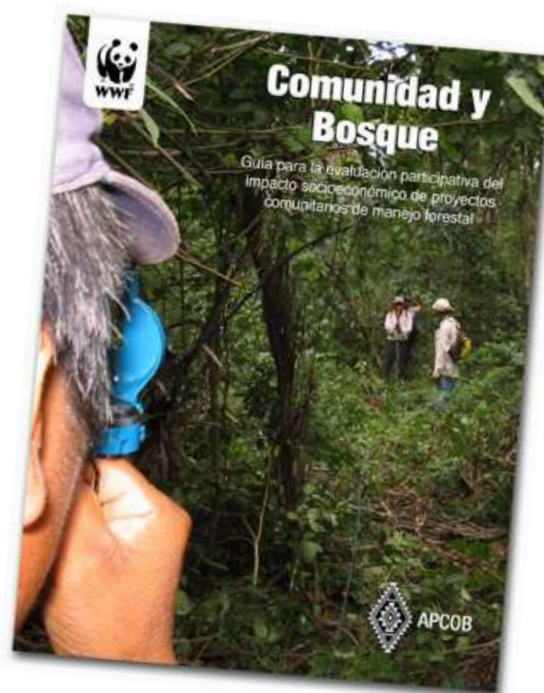


Practical Guide for Using a GPS and Producing Maps

This practical guide was developed in order to provide the know how on using a GPS (Global Positioning System) and map making as useful tools in the planning for the sustainable use of forest resources on behalf of community forest owners.

This guide includes clear and summarized information organized as a series of lessons and facilitating activities such as inventories, census, opening of trails and access roads, community planning and drafting of Forest Annual Operating Plans as well as their respective reports of harvesting and other issues.

For further information please contact Marcelo Ruiz at: mruiz@wwfbolivia.org



Community and Forest

This guide is aimed at the participatory evaluation related to the socio-economic impact of community forestry management projects and suggests practical exercises that allow forestry staff from NGOs and community forest enterprises to consolidate or re-direct actions during the management of projects based on the evaluation carried out by the members from the indigenous forest unit, technicians and staff from supporting organizations.

For further information please contact Orlando Melgarejo omelgarejo@wwfbolivia.org



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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Produced by: WWF Bolivia • Graphic design: Barbián Comunicación • Print: Imprenta SIRENA

