



# WWFolio Bolivia

FOR A LIVING PLANET

Informative publication regarding WWF's work in Bolivia

Edition Nº 1 – February 2005







# LIVING Editorial

WWF, the global conservation organization, first began working in Bolivia in 1970 by supporting the establishment of the Ulla Ulla Vicuña Reserve. And, by 1993 we established a physical presence through a program office in Santa Cruz that today supports and implements actions in the Bolivian Pantanal and Amazon.

Our vision is focused on sustainable development, conservation of the country's rich biodiversity and improvement of the standard of living of the local population. WWF focuses its programs in Bolivia on

the sustainable development of freshwater and forest ecosystems.

At WWF we consider ourselves to be optimists and persevering. Great challenges inspire us to reach qualitative results, and which we feel important to share with you. Stay tuned!

Roger Landivar  
Country Representative ■

## LIVING Pantanal

◀ Kids in Puerto Suárez (Bolivian Pantanal) celebrated their day with the Panda.

Identified as one of the 200 priority eco-regions for conservation worldwide, the Pantanal is the world's largest tropical wetland and is shared between Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

Recognizing the immense richness found in the Pantanal, as well as the need to establish conservation strategies, the Bolivian government declared two protected areas in the eco-region in 1997. And, in 2001 the entire Bolivian Pantanal was declared a Ramsar Site awarding its worldwide importance and international recognition.

WWF began working in the Bolivian Pantanal in 1997 by initially supporting the creation, and subsequently the management, of the two protected areas: San Matías and Otuquis. Currently, WWF also supports the implementation of sustainable practices regarding fishing, cattle ranching and tourism, aiming to improve the standard of living of the local inhabitants, as well as promote eco-regional conservation policies and integrated management of the Upper Watershed of the Paraguay River, of which the Pantanal is a part.

The world's  
largest tropical  
wetland!





◀ The Paraguay River flowing through the Pantanal.



▲ Sustainability of cattle ranching activities in the Pantanal keeps getting more and more important.

## Protected area management: supporting Otuquis

WWF intensely supports the National Service for Protected Areas (SERNAP) in order to help them in the effective management of protected areas. This also includes working with populations residing within protected areas or in surrounding areas, in harmony with the conservation objectives of these areas.

The extreme southern portion of the Otuquis Protected Area is practically flooded the entire year, making it extremely difficult to build camps that could fulfill routine operations. In view of this difficulty, WWF donated a boat to the protected area, which serves as a floating camp. This will greatly facilitate

protection and patrol activities in the area of the Dionisio Foianini Corridor. The boat will also support environmental education activities, through guided trips promoting the natural values of the Pantanal and the importance of its conservation.

## Sustainable cattle ranching in the Pantanal

The Pantanal is considered a suitable area for cattle ranching, and it has become one of the main economic activities in the region. For this reason, WWF is promoting and financing both SERNAP and INFOCAL in a training program with the purpose of improving the cattle production and management through the implementation of technology and practices that also ensure the conservation of the natural values of the Pantanal and contribute to improving the living conditions of the population.

Towards the end of 2004 the first group of cattle ranching operators graduated as a result of the abovementioned program. It is expected that by 2007 another 60 individuals will have graduated. In addition, the same training program is being implemented under an itinerant approach, ensuring that owners of cattle ranches, foremen and cowboys that can't leave the ranches still have access to training on a regular basis.

## Wetland educational curriculum

In a joint effort between WWF, Fundación Amigos del Museo and PROCESO Educational Services, as well as with the active participation of teachers

has been elaborated putting into context the attributes of the region and greatly contributing to developing and strengthening the knowledge and practices that conserve the Pantanal.

The curriculum responds to established criteria according to the Bolivian Educational Reform, which places the topic of the environment as a transversal. The curriculum will be implemented during the 2006 school year and will have permanent classroom follow-up for its subsequent validation and official approval by the Ministry of Education.

## Strengthening wetland municipalities

As of the implementation of the Law for Popular Participation, the municipal governments have acquired a leadership role regarding the planning and management of their development. WWF supports this process by strengthening the capacities of the municipalities that form part of the Pantanal through their Local Economic Development Commissions (known as CODEL), aiming at uniting and integrating the actors involved in the sustainable development of the Bolivian Pantanal.

Noteworthy activities carried out by the CODEL have been, for example, trade fairs, such as the ones held in San Matias and Puerto Suarez (FexpoMatías and FexpoPantanal respectively). These fairs represent opportunities to share cultural, economic, industrial and environmental potentials of the eco-region. The massive participation on behalf of local stakeholders and those with a vested interest in the Pantanal, is proof of the region's potential.



◀ © WWF / Juan Carlos VACA

## Sustainable Future for the Bolivian Pantanal

There are various initiatives with the intention of promoting the socio-economic development of the region, known as the "Southeastern Bolivia Development Frontier" within the Bolivian portion of the Pantanal. The initiatives contemplate, among other infrastructure projects, the construction of a port (Puerto Busch) in the Dionisio Foianini Corridor, and a railway line that would connect the port with the main railway line. These projects would cut through a unique part of the Pantanal, in terms of its flooding and depth of its water.

▲ Fairs are also good opportunities to instill environmental awareness among the little ones.





Aerial view of the Paraguay River.



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WWF is convinced that sustainable development is necessary and inevitable for the Bolivian Pantanal, but at the same time it should be carried out in a responsible, transparent, fair, and participatory manner. Thus, our commitment and objective is to provide technical information that supports sound decision-making. This information will be provided in a study entitled "Sustainable Future for the Bolivian Pantanal", which is scheduled to be concluded in April 2005.

At the same time, we have provided follow-up to the entire process for these development initiatives, keeping an open mind, aiming to promote the construction of a future that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. For this, we carried out an independent review of the

Environmental Impact Studies for the proposed railway and port infrastructure projects. These Studies described deficient infrastructure in numerous aspects that seriously compromise their technical, economic and environmental viability. Our observations were communicated to the environmental authorities at the highest levels and made public through the media.

Currently, we are elaborating our report with support from a multi-disciplinary team of experts from the Earth Institute and Crop & Food Research Institute, as well as with collaboration from technical staff from WWF. The preliminary results of the analysis regarding the proposed infrastructure projects for the Pantanal are worrisome, not only because the environmental and social impacts are potentially serious, but also due to errors detected in the engineering and economic calculations that make the projects not viable in the long term. On the other hand, we see the need to explore other alternatives and potentials to promote the social and economic development of the region and that represent better perspectives with lesser economic and environmental costs. ■

# LIVING Amazon

The Amazon is the largest tract of intact humid forest in the world; the portion in Bolivia corresponds to the southwest area of the Amazon and is located in the northern part of the country in the Departments of Pando, Beni, northern portions of La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. The Southwest Amazon is also one of WWF's Global 200 eco-regions.

WWF works in the Bolivian Amazon since 1999, aiming to conserve large blocks of forest that are representative of the Amazon's biodiversity. In addition, WWF is committed to contributing to improve the standard of living of the local population in the medium to long term.

## Itenez Reserve: 15 communities working towards sustainable development

The Itenez Reserve, located in the northeastern portion of the Department of Beni and bordering Brazil, is inhabited by 15 communities that directly depend upon the use of natural resources for their livelihood. In order to guarantee the availability of these resources well into the future, sustainable

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The largest tract  
of intact humid  
forest in the  
world!





© WWF / Juan Carlos VACA



The kids who won the contest "Let's do School Newspapers" walk on one of the trails at Amboro Interpretation Center in Buena Vista.

productive activities are being supported, in close coordination with the regional government of Beni (Prefecture), such as fishing and small farm management plans, responsible management of forests, as well as the elaboration of diagnosis regarding cacao plantations and tourism potential of the region.

Since October 2004, the Prefecture of Beni, in collaboration with WWF, has been implementing an intense information campaign targeting the local population, regarding the value and benefits of Itenez Reserve. Radio jingles, brochures and videos are permanently disseminated.

## Altamachi: management for sustainability in the Yungas

WWF, through the local NGO CIDEDER, is supporting the Prefecture of Cochabamba in obtaining the declaration of Altamachi (a departmental protected area). Meanwhile, support is also being given to initial management needs for the area. Altamachi is important because of its role in providing

water to Cochabamba, not to mention the fact that it represents one of the best conserved areas in the Bolivian Yungas.

Altamachi was created through a Prefecture Resolution in 2002, supported by a participatory process including public consultation as well as scientific data verifying its conservation importance and justifying its creation. With the objective of further consolidating the process, WWF actively promotes the participation of the population in the area's management and is currently implementing educational and extension activities, including technical assistance, allowing the population to visualize the potential sustainable economic activities for the region within their reach.

## Amboro Interpretation Center: an entrance to the Park

Inaugurated in April 2004 and located in Buena Vista, the Center has since received more than 3000 visitors (locals and foreigners). Children, teen-agers and adults have all expressed their enthusiasm and commitment to preserve the rich biodiversity in perhaps one of the country's most popular areas. Just in birds alone, Amboro National Park is home to over 800 species.

At the same time, the Center has become a model in terms of demonstrating the positive relationship that can exist between a protected area and municipal government, actors who now find themselves exploring innovative ways of jointly administer the Center.

## Teaching ecology in the school yard

In August 2004, Santa Cruz hosted the II Ecological Scientific Congress "Science in our Hands" carried out by the local NGO REMA. The objective was to create an opportunity for primary and secondary school children to plan, execute and evaluate research activities, in a natural setting, focusing on introducing basic concepts of conservation and natural resource management in their schools. This is another WWF effort to provide continuity to environmental education, similar to that of the Amboro Interpretation Center.

There were more than 2500 participants, including students, teachers, parents, jury members and media, among others.

## Madre de Dios, Acre and Pando (MAP): the forest as a means of livelihood

In January 2005 the project "Conservation and Sustainable Development of the MAP Region" was officially launched. Aiming to optimize economic benefits based on forest resources, specific efforts will be directed at aspects regarding land management, competitiveness and participation in local productive activities - with emphasis on Brazil nuts - including influencing public policies. The scope of the Project reaches into the municipalities of Bolpebra (Bolivia), Tahuamanu (Peru) and Assis (Brazil), and other specific spots still to be identified.



© WWF / Eduardo RUIZ



The forest as a means of livelihood: sustainable harvesting of Brazil nut in Pando, Bolivia.

WWF is responsible for the implementation of the Project, but its design and follow-up is shared among a Consortium of six international organizations: WWF, CARE, CI – Conservation International, SNV – Dutch Service for Development Cooperation, TNC - The Nature Conservancy and TBI - Tropenbos International. Approximately 1.5 million USD forthcoming from the Dutch Embassy for the next 15 months will be invested in the project, which also contemplates the development of a five year proposal for the MAP Region. ■

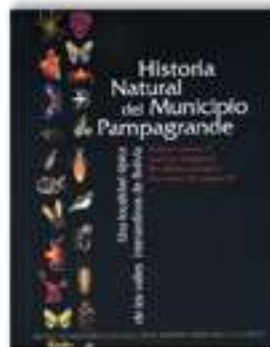


## LIVING Technology

### Technology serving the sustainable development of the Itenez Reserve

In a joint effort with the Prefecture of Beni, WWF provided a diversity of equipment facilitating environmental education through the use of interactive multimedia resources, reducing the technology gap between urban and rural populations and promoting the conservation and sustainable development of the Itenez Reserve.

The Computer and Environmental Center in Bella Vista was strengthened through the provision of eight computers, software and multimedia tools, linking computer training to environmental issues. Additionally, the Environmental and Land Tenure Office for the Municipal Government of Magdalena, as well as the Administration for the Itenez Reserve, now have equipment that allows them to follow-up on natural resources management in the area, as well as implement monitoring plans.



## LIVING Publications

### Ecological Zoning of the Amboro - Madidi Bio-Corridor

The Amboro - Madidi Corridor (known as CAM) occupies close to 15% of Bolivia's surface area. It is an area of incredible diversity and endemism, specially regarding flora of the Bolivian Amazon, not to mention containing the highest diversity in terms of birds, endemism in various taxa, and protecting the main fresh water generating and water-flow regulating watersheds.

This publication, supported by WWF with funds from USAID, identifies, describes and maps the different vegetation units and landscape systems, main natural barriers, and much more data in the hopes of providing solid information for the elaboration of a Conservation Plan. For further information please contact: [www.fan-bo.org/editorial](http://www.fan-bo.org/editorial), [editorial@fan-bo.org](mailto:editorial@fan-bo.org)

### Natural History of the Pampagrande Municipality

The Municipality of Pampagrande represents what is referred to as a typical zone of Bolivian inter-Andean xeric valleys. This publication compiles the information and knowledge found within the Municipality and refers to various topics related to the existing biodiversity, its history as well as some socioeconomic aspects.

Fascinated by the biological richness and the kindness of the inhabitants, students as well as local and international scientists began visiting the region. This publication reflects the scientific work carried out by many of these visitors and at the same time represents the first of its kind in terms of a municipality in Bolivia, together with its inhabitants, taking a leading role and directly contributing to the scientific collections of the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum. They are now more than ever ardent guardians of the Amboro National Park. For further information please contact: [jaramayo@museonoelkempff.org](mailto:jaramayo@museonoelkempff.org)

## LIVING Forests

Between 1999 and 2004 WWF Bolivia implemented the Regional Community Forestry Certification Project for Latin America and the Caribbean through funding received from the Swedish Cooperation Agency, ASDI, channeled by WWF Sweden. The main objective of the project was to support community forestry management initiatives intending to become certified. This consisted primarily in, but not limited to, designing and implementing technical assistance plans, direct funding of costs associated with certification, exchange of experiences and training courses.

### Exchange of forestry management experiences: Panama - Guatemala

In August 2004, eleven community members from Emberá Wounaan, Panama, carried out a nine-day visit to the Maya communities in Petén, Guatemala. The purpose of the visit was to better understand sustainable forestry management and commercialization, hoping that this would help the Panamanian communities decide either for or against this activity.

Aiming at an  
integral  
valorization of the  
forest resources.

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Brazil nut, one of the main non-timber forest products



During the exchange, the Emberá Wounaan were able to understand the complex planning and organizational process for the sustainable forestry management and commercialization which other indigenous groups have gone through, as well as learn first hand the advantages associated with independent forest certification (FSC) and the experiences in the commercialization of certified forest products. At the same time, the exchange promoted a more integral valorization of forest resources and of the participation of the community in their management.

## Latin America will present **motions** of change at the 2005 FSC Assembly

As a result of the workshop “Reviewing the Experience of Certification of Community Forestry Management in Latin America: proposals for the next 2005 FSC Assembly” carried out in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in November 2004, there are now fifteen “proposals or motions for change” that will be debated and voted upon during the upcoming FSC General Assembly. This will serve as the basis to promote a process of participation and dialogue among the communities in the South. It is hoped it will also serve to overcome problems that stop the communities of having access to the process of certification. In addition, in order for these proposals to also be debated and considered in the economic and environmental chamber for South America, the Bolivian Council for Voluntary Forest Certification is organizing a preparatory meeting, which will be held this February.

## Peruvian Tambopata Reserve obtains FSC Organic **Certification**

This is the first certification for Peru in which 27 families that work in harvesting Brazil nuts were evaluated and received FSC Organic Group Certification. It was made possible thanks to support from the Amazon Watershed Conservation Association, ACCA, and WWF Peru. This is a first of its kind experience of small scale producers, setting an important precedent for a region in which Brazil nuts are an important non-timber product and represents a source of income of great potential for inhabitants of limited economic resources and opportunities.

## Supporting sustainability in forest communities in Bolivia

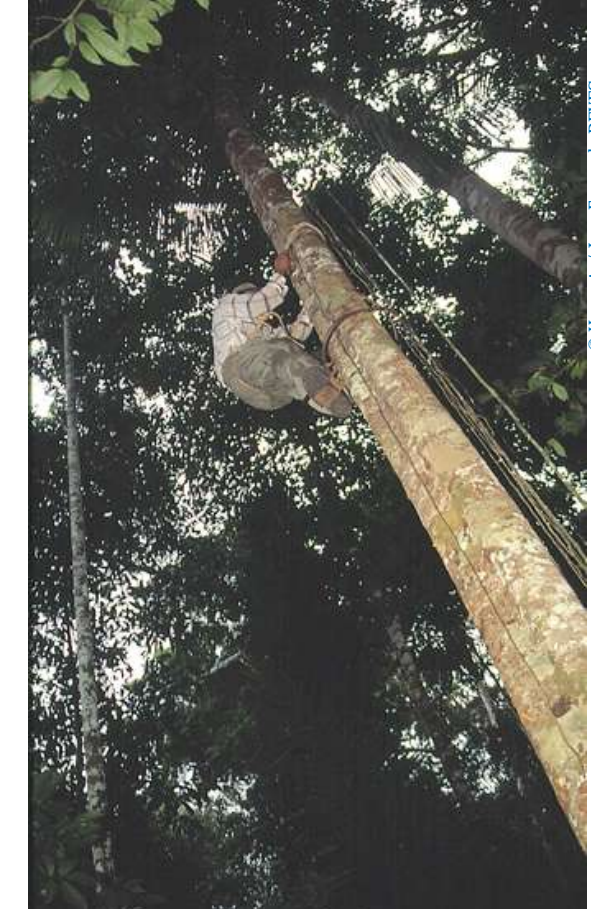
The activities of WWF Bolivia regarding forests will focus on the Southwest Amazon eco-region. The plan is to strengthen the capacities of indigenous communities and local social organizations, enabling them to carry out responsible commercial forest management. At the same time, preference will be awarded at the national level for timber forthcoming from well-managed forests. This is also a strategy to give an incentive for those illegal operators to assume sustainable practices in the management of timber resources.

The responsible use of forest resources constitutes one of the few economic opportunities to efficiently prevent the conversion and destruction of forests - currently a serious threat to the Southwest Amazon and which carries with it related social problems.

## Stepwise Approach to Certification

In November 2004, WWF Bolivia's forestry team carried out a test run for the Stepwise Approach tools, adjusting its design and carrying out field tests with support from WWF Central America, as well as Bolivian experts in certification.

The field test was carried out with the management plan for the Bajo Paragua TCO (native territory) and



Southwestern Amazonian moist forests, Pando, Bolivia

will allow to produce a Gradual Management Plan that will assist the TCO to work towards certification, as well as establish partnerships with certified companies that are seeking raw material. ■





Our work  
towards a  
living  
planet.

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# More LIFE

## The use of **video** as a means to promote awareness

Among lights, applause and tears of emotion, the National University Video Festival - Fenavid 2004 "Art Does Not Contaminate" was brought to a finish.

As its name implies, the 2004 version of Fenavid was committed to using audiovisuals as a means of raising environmental awareness. The Fundav Audiovisual Foundation and WWF are confident that video producers will begin to play a significant role in the long term sustainable development in Bolivia helping to bring to light the country's immense natural and cultural wealth and the issues and conflicts they face.

WWF considered this festival as an excellent opportunity to not only celebrate the audiovisual resource as a means of effective communication, but more specifically produce and exhibit environmental issues and instill awareness, knowledge and respect for the country's rich flora and fauna.

## September 4th, 2005: The first National Protected Area Day

As a result of an administrative resolution issued by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, September 4th has been officially declared as the National Protected Area Day in Bolivia. The date coincides with the institutionalization of the National Service for Protected Areas (SERNAP), a decentralized arm of the aforementioned Ministry, responsible for coordinating the functioning of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP).

In preparation for the celebration this September, WWF is supporting SERNAP in the design of a communication campaign. It is expected that other organizations and committed individuals will come on board and collaborate in this initiative. This is an excellent opportunity to promote among the local population the important role protected areas play in Bolivia and in our lives. More information in the next edition of WWFolio.

## Santa Cruz International Trade Fair as a communication opportunity

In September 2004, 27 conservation organizations, among them WWF, allied themselves and presented a 64 square meter stand on conservation and sustainable development. The four central themes were: "Biodiverse Bolivia", "Conserving Biodiversity in Protected Areas", "Communities Participate" and "We All Benefit".

The topics were presented through a predominantly visual interpretive trail, with photo panels with text. In addition, park guards provided guided "tours" for the trail. Children were also able to participate and got the opportunity to draw as well as play with several interactive environmental games.

## RAPPAM Assessing and prioritizing actions towards the **optimal management** of the National Protected Areas System (SNAP)

In May 2004, directors and heads of protection, as well as presidents from the management committees from 19 of the 22 areas belonging to the SNAP, participated in the application of the RAPPAM Method (promoted by WWF and SERNAP), aimed at assessing and prioritizing the management of protected areas. Roughly 50 individuals participated during an intense three day workshop, which included participation from SERNAP Central Office, WWF, TNC and CI.

The results of the exercise will serve as a tool for making key decisions, helping to develop and prioritize appropriate interventions and steps to follow in order to improve the effective management of protected areas in Bolivia. During the first semester of 2005, the results regarding RAPPAM's application will be available and consolidated in a publication for ample distribution. ■





## 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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## Budget executed during the last three fiscal years

