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WWFolio Bolivia

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Living editorial

Forest certification

a serious approach to conservation

Those of us who have had the privilege of closely following the dynamics around the use of forest resources in Bolivia during the past two decades, cannot deny that there have been two important phenomena that definitely placed Bolivia on the global forestry map: the promulgation and enforcement of Forestry Law 1700, and the development of FSC certification in the country.

Law 1700 launched us into the 21st century, leaving behind bad habits and anachronisms from a previous system that was almost totally unaware of the precepts of sustainability and characterized by an administrative management far from being efficient and correct, which a modern system should include. And although the deficiencies of the previous system have not been fully eliminated by the law, the truth of the matter is that the most damaging practices regarding forest management and conservation were controlled, eradicated and substituted with practices that were developed in such a way that, in a few years, Bolivia has now become a model and reference for the rest of the world in terms of sustainable forest development with both businessmen and indigenous communities.

Certification arrived almost simultaneously with the new law, preaching and putting in practice the principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability, and embracing the necessary institutions with clear regulations. Forest certification won the trust of the population in Bolivia, arriving firmly to the indigenous and peasant communities with forestry rights, took root in a good number of forestry businessmen and business associations, installed itself in a wide group of institutions that, such as WWF, supported and continue promoting its implementation, and complemented itself with a solid and concurrent presence in the law and public institutions that deal with the issue in Bolivia.

We humbly believe that the effort and investment in the above mentioned processes have produced generous positive benefits, considering that the current market tendencies show an increasing demand for sustainable products, including forestry products. Because of this, WWF continues promoting certification as a mechanism to fight illegal logging and deforestation and preserve forests to minimize climate change and continue providing us with essential benefits in terms of goods and services, for the safety and wellbeing of humanity.

Currently Bolivia holds the title for world leader in certification of native tropical forests. Its certified wood exports represent 17% of its total forest products exports and 27% of timber products exports. There is also a Bolivian network of certified producers –the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) Bolivia– which regularly carries out business transactions with networks in buyer countries. Additionally, there is an internal consumption of certified products, a process which several public and private institutions are formally adhering to. Bolivia is the only country in the world where a biennial international sculptors' workshop in certified wood is held; there is even an urban icon, the certified forest walkway, located in the self-proclaimed World Capital of Forest Certification: Santa Cruz de la Sierra, a reminder to the city of this important activity.

Forest certification is thus a serious approach to conservation, and the consolidation of its development, as well as the maintenance of its level, depend on providing continuous monitoring and support to avoid its misrepresentation or deterrent and to promote its progress forward.

Adolfo Moreno
Director a.i.

Living Pantanal

Feature story on sustainable cattle ranching in the Bolivian Pantanal wins award

With support from WWF Bolivia, Freddy Lacio, a journalist with newspaper El Deber, visited the Northern Bolivian Pantanal in San Matías and some sustainable cattle ranches, where natural pasturelands and other sustainable and environmentally friendly practices are carried out. The content of his article was a clear example of how a productive activity such as cattle ranching in the Pantanal, if carried out under sustainability criteria, offers important contributions in improving the living conditions and generating economic benefits for the population, as well as development that is respectful with the environment.

“Green meat: ecology is good business”, a feature story published in August 2008, received the First Honorable Mention for the 2009 Biodiversity Reporting Award, organized by Conservation International (CI). The award hopes to promote environmental journalism in Bolivia and recognize the professional excellence of journalists covering these topics. WWF is convinced that the articles presented by these professionals are strategic in disseminating sound productive practices and other environmental issues, in search of development strategies that harmonize conservation and production. Congratulations Mr. Lacio!

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3rd EcoPantanal Fair

Puerto Quijarro

In September, teachers and students held the EcoPantanal Student Fair, organized by the Environmental Unit of the Puerto Quijarro Municipal Government, the Bolivian Association for Environmental Law (SBDA) and the District Educational Office of Puerto Quijarro, in collaboration with WWF Bolivia.

With the participation of 10 schools and 225 students, and thanks to support from public and private institutions and the presence of local and regional authorities, the EcoPantanal was a call to raise awareness regarding the impact of man on the environment, as well as how to reduce our ecological footprint, favoring sustainable development that provides a quality of life

for the population in a manner that is harmonious with its natural surrounding.

The EcoPantanal was another example of the result obtained when there is coordinated teamwork on behalf of organizations oriented towards sustainable development in Bolivia. “Activities such as the EcoPantanal are valuable for a region such as southeastern Bolivia, due to the upcoming industrial and development activities, and which is necessary to know about and identify the natural values of the Bolivian Pantanal in order to be able to protect them”, stated Gina Arnez, Director of Environmental Quality of the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz.

Ecological footprint is the measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems and natural resources. This measurement allows us to know how much of nature's resources we each use to maintain our style of living.

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Elementary school kids from 27 de Mayo school in Puerto Quijarro

Photographs of the Pantanal

visiting the municipalities in southeastern Bolivia

An itinerant photo exhibit, “Bolivian Pantanal, Source of Life and Development”, was organized by the Pantanal Bolivia Network, the Bolivian Association for Environmental Law (SBDA), with support from WWF Bolivia, in hopes of revealing the scenic beauty and natural values of the Bolivian Pantanal –the largest tropical wetland in the world.

The photographs are a visual adventure within the majestic Pantanal, with impressive imagery that gives as an overview of its rivers, lakes and forests, a taste of how its inhabitants live, and the secret places where hyacinth macaws nest and jaguars rest.

“The exhibit is itinerant and interactive, and its visit to various municipalities (San Matías, San Ignacio de Velasco, Santa Cruz and Roboré) is leaving a pleasant impression and allowing its inhabitants to learn more about the region and appreciate its natural and cultural richness”, indicated Víctor Hugo Magallanes, Coordinator for the Pantanal Network.

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Launch of the exhibit at FexpoMatías fair

Adventure tourism in Yunga Pampa

Between the Mosetenes mountain range and the last foothills of the Andes

Within the Northern Tiquipaya Municipal Wildlife Reserve –located 76 km from Tiquipaya (in Cochabamba, in the Bolivian Amazon)– there is a small lodge named Yunga Pampa, built on a natural platform in the transition area between the puna and the tropics, offering an incredible view of the Yungas forest below.

The lodge is governed by a steering committee composed of 14 community members from the northern portion of the Tiquipaya municipality, members of the municipal council, executive staff from the municipality and ex technicians from the Center for Ecological Defense and Rural Development (Cideder), a good example of participatory community management.

The lodge was inaugurated by a group of Belgian visitors from the University of Lovaina. For five days they visited the northern section of the Tiquipaya municipality, characterized by its extraordinary biological diversity as a result of the different altitudinal ecological zones

(ranging from 3,800 to 700 m, presenting a great variety of ecosystems).

The promoters of this initiative are confident that, by developing planned tourism, they will also be able to establish the strategic and efficient basis to promote tourism in 80% of the communities in the northern section of the municipality. They plan on closing the tourism circuit by showing the particularity of each ecological zone and its endemic and intact flora and fauna, due to very little human pressure in the area.

The Yunga Pampa lodge offers everything necessary for a variety of tourism activities (adventure, research and leisure), and constitutes a fundamental part for generating employment. It also contributes to the economic development of the local rural communities through the implementation of responsible tourism within protected areas: Tunari National Park and Northern Tiquipaya Municipal Wildlife Reserve.

Although only two communities delimit the area of the Reserve (Totolima and Carmen Pampa), the other five remaining (Montecillo Alto, Malpaso, Rodeo Verde, Corral Pampa and Huaripucara) inhabit the surrounding area and are part of the process of consolidation of the Reserve, as they also benefit from the use of natural resources within it.

The Tiquipaya Reserve, ratified through a Municipal Ordinance in 2008, complements the representation of Yungas forests within the National System of Protected Areas.

The Northern Tiquipaya Municipal Wildlife Reserve was created by the Municipal Government of Tiquipaya in 2005, in collaboration with Cideder and WWF. It is located to the north of the municipality that bears the same name, between the Mosetenes mountain range and the last foothills of the eastern mountain range of the Andes, and just before the transition between the Andes and the Amazon, and constitutes an important part of the Amboró-Madidi Corridor.

Biogeographically, the Reserve forms part of the humid and cloud forests.

Objectives of the Reserve

- **Conserve the upper watershed to guarantee the supply of water in terms of quantity and quality for the population of Cochabamba**
- **Conserve the fauna and flora in order to maintain evolutionary processes and connectivity between diverse landscapes**
- **Conserve the scientific, aesthetic and landscape values to promote ecotourism activities that generate income for the communities without damaging the environment**
- **Conserve the social values to maintain cultural diversity, which also supports sustainable productive practices.**

Another example of sustainable productive activity within the Reserve is the production of organic honey. Totolima and Carmen Pampa are two communities that partnered and set up a community company successful in obtaining certification for organic honey in compliance with European regulations. In 2008 the company was awarded a bid by the Tiquipaya Municipal Government for the supply of sachets with honey for school breakfasts in the municipality. The machine currently used to package the honey in sachets is located on land donated by the municipality, in order to help centralize the production of four additional communities, converting the area into a known honey production area.



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On the other hand, pisciculture is under serious development, providing the communities with not only a source of food rich in proteins, but also improving their diets and offering them an option to attract tourists during the annual trout fishing festival carried out in the lagoons located in the community of Huaripucara and its surroundings.

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Tiquipaya Municipal Government

The mission of this municipality is to meet the needs of its inhabitants through the transparent and egalitarian use of its public resources, as well planning and executing infrastructure with the participation of its citizens, based on its vocation for potential development throughout the jurisdiction.

One of the proposed objectives of the Tiquipaya Municipal Government in terms of the environment is to support the management of the Northern Tiquipaya Municipal Wildlife Reserve, and they plan on seeking funds for the following:

- Establish the Management Committee for the Reserve
- Finish equipping the Yunga Pampa Lodge
- Place signs indicating access to tourism attractions
- Develop a business plan aimed at developing tourism in Yunga Pampa.

Mr. Saúl Cruz Pardo, Mayor of the Tiquipaya Municipality, in reference to the co-administration of the Tiquipaya Reserve with the local communities, emphasized that “98% of the municipal territory is within the municipal reserve, and it is an important link for the connectivity with other national protected areas, such as Amboró, Carrasco and Isiboro Sécure (the central part of the Ambo-

ró-Madidi Corridor, with a high level of biological diversity considered of global priority). This makes our Tiquipaya Reserve a living ‘mother Earth’ which must be cared for and managed in a planned manner that allows us to continue enjoying its benefits through sustainable productive activities, such as agroecology and community tourism”.

Living forests

Effective market links through the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) Bolivia

The GFTN Bolivia organized a Business Mission for the Dutch company Precious Woods Europe, a participant of the Dutch GFTN. Business meetings and guided technical visits were carried out in the cities of Santa Cruz, La Paz, Cochabamba and Riberalta, meeting with 18 timber companies that either participate or are candidates to adhere to the GFTN Bolivia.

As a result of this visit, the Dutch company has committed to buying several containers of sawn timber and decking of at least 8 tree species that are FSC certified.

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Forest Certification in Bolivia

Opportunities for markets and alliances between stakeholders

The forestry sector has shown its international leadership by certifying 2.1 million hectares of native tropical forests under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) label, through good management endorsed by international organizations. This honor, however, requires the adhesion of other operations and the decided governmental support to make the most of the benefits provided by external markets for certified forest products.

This statement is one of main conclusions arrived at during the Forum “Forest Certification in Bolivia: Benefits for the communities, companies and forests”,

carried out towards the beginning of October in La Paz, organized by the Bolivian Council for Voluntary Forest Certification (CFV) and the Bolivian Institute of Foreign Trade (Ibce).

The forum also considered that it is necessary for private organizations and those related to the forestry activity, in addition to the government, to deploy actions to disseminate the benefits of voluntary certification at the community level. This would contribute in helping to put a stop to illegal activities that occur in some markets.

FSC is a certification system that provides internationally recognized standard-setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services to companies, organizations, and communities interested in responsible forestry. The FSC label provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make purchasing decisions that benefit people and the environment, as well as providing on-going business values. It also promotes the participation of communities, indigenous people, forestry workers, industry and producers working in forest management, helping people to continue living, working and obtaining income from forests. In addition, FSC certified forests ensure the protection of water, soil, flora and fauna.



The Certified Forest Walkway

In September the Certified Forest Walkway was inaugurated in Santa Cruz de la Sierra as an initiative of the Autonomous Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, WWF and the Bolivian Forestry Chamber, aimed at celebrating the commitment of this municipality with the conservation of forests, as well as providing an area for recreation and raising awareness in terms of the important role cities play as beneficiaries and users of forests.

In compliance with a Municipal Ordinance from 2006, the municipality, with support from WWF, has assumed an active commitment with the conservation of Bolivian forests, through a series of actions:

1. Adoption of a Responsible Purchase Policy through which the Municipal Government will gradually buy certified forest products.
2. The self-proclamation of Santa Cruz de la Sierra as the World Capital of Certified Native Tropical Forests.
3. Creation of the Certified Forest Walkway.

The walkway is a green urban area that serves as an interpretation center, offering information on forest management, FSC certification, responsible trade, the city-forest connection, and background on the International Sculptors' Workshops in FSC certified wood, becoming an excellent opportunity for education and promotional activities related to forests.

In 2006 and 2008, the Manzana 1 Art Gallery organized the International Sculptors' Workshops in FSC certified wood, where 16 sculptures were produced and are now displayed and give the walkway a distinguished and unique aspect.

Worldwide, deforestation causes 20% of the annual emissions of greenhouse gases –more emissions than those caused by the entire global transport sector– and this is the main route by which Bolivia contributes to global climate change. Forests are very important in the fight against climate change and in adapting to it, not to mention the array of essential goods and services they provide us with. Their conservation depends on their good management, which can also be achieved through certification. Initiatives providing information and raising awareness, such as the Certified Forest Walkway, also aim to provide for man's wellbeing and safety.

FSC forest certification

Forest certification offers a guarantee that the wood products we use come from responsibly managed forests. This is why it is important to recognize the FSC label when we purchase wood products. Buying an FSC product guarantees a contribution to the conservation of forests, as well as allowing the consumer to express his support to responsible forest management through his purchase.

Bolivia is leader in FSC forest certification with more than two million hectares of native tropical forests under sustainable management. Unfortunately, illegal logging is still a problem, with 285,000 hectares of forests being cut down annually in Bolivia (of which 220,000 hectares is in the Department of Santa Cruz). Visit www.fsc.org
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Becoming acquainted with lesser-known timber species

One of the pavilions exhibiting the sculptures along the Certified Forest Walkway was constructed with wood from this beautiful species and which is also lesser-known and will venture into the market in response to the commercial depletion of other species.

Garapa (*Apuleia leiocarpa*)

Ecology

A dry season deciduous species partially requiring light. Flowers from September to October, with its mature fruits being dispersed by the wind from November to January.

Distribution

This species is found only in the Amazon region of Bolivia: Pando, northern La Paz, Beni and northeastern Santa Cruz. It is found on undulated terrain in acid lateritic soils.

Use

Garapa is a tropical hardwood and can be used for molding, flooring, decking, doors and window frames, as well as railway sleepers, among others. It has a high commercial value, and, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), “hard woods such as *Apuleia leiocarpa* continue to enter the tropical wood market and have enormous potential in helping to provide economic sustainability”.



Community Based Forest Enterprises in Latin America, Africa and Asia sustainably manage their forests

Representatives from WWF offices, partners organizations and Community Based Forest Enterprises (CBFE) from Bolivia, Panama, Papua New Guinea and Cameroon participated in the “International Meeting for Community Based Forest Enterprises” in Concepción, Bolivia last July.

The objective of the meeting was to exchange lessons learned related to experiences in the forest with Community Based Forest Enterprises. Based on this exchange, WWF will be developing future strategies that will continue supporting CBFEs in these regions.

“Poverty is not fought without creating wealth. Wealth is not created without trade. There is no trade without companies. And to have prosperous and independent companies, a favorable institutional environment and sound knowledge regarding forest management and trade are needed”, said Juan Sève, Director of WWF’s CBFE Strengthening Project, adding, “all of our efforts fall within this perspective”.

Each of these countries has tropical forests which are globally important for conservation. Additionally, each country also has large groups of indigenous rural communities that depend on forests for their income, food, medicine and construction materials for their homes. These countries also have environmental policies that, in general, favor the development of Community Based Forest Enterprises.

Among its activities, WWF Bolivia promotes a responsible supply of wood from indigenous and rural communities in the Amazon and Dry Chiquitano Forest to supply the demand from responsible companies nationally and internationally participating in WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN). Bolivia is currently seeking the develop-

ment of management models for CBFEs, training in forest management for FSC certification through the Stepwise Approach, business management training and control of productive units that guarantee transparency in forest management. These are all strategies to promote the conservation of forests and avoid deforestation.

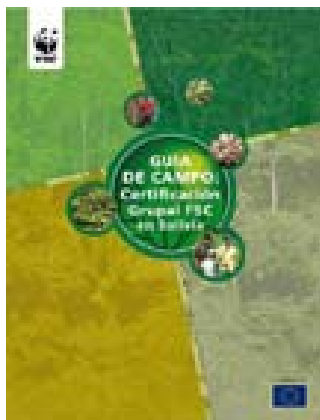
As a result of this meeting, a series of technical articles will be developed to summarize the lessons learned regarding i) CBFE policies, legislation and regulations; ii) Organization, management and social aspects of CBFEs; iii) Systems for sustainable forest production and management; and, iv) markets and funding.

Living publications

Field Guide

FSC group certification in Bolivia

© Omar AMPUERO / WWF Bolivia



Group certification is a model implemented by a group of forestry producers which can be mixed: communities, private, etc. It aims to overcome problems faced by individual certification, merging several areas under one single 'resource

administrator', who organizes the FSC certification process allowing each member to benefit from large scale economies.

Bolivia has enormous potential to apply the group certification model, considering the increase in participation of indigenous and peasant populations in forestry activities during the last five years.

Click **here** to access the full publication.

Guide for contracts

between communities and companies for wood products

© Omar AMPUERO / WWF Bolivia



Bolivia is considered a forestry country due to its extensive forest cover. Each year, close to one million cubic meters of wood is produced and it is believed that ten times this could be produced.

Close to 9.2 million hectares are under sustainable forest management. Of these, more than 2 million are FSC

certified, making it necessary to support forest management stakeholders with practical tools, such as models for contracts related to production and trade of forestry wood products (standing trees, logs, sawn timber, etc.), subscribed between community and private forestry companies. The guide has a didactical and practical focus for its application, including a CD with digital formats of the contracts that can be edited and used on behalf of the beneficiaries.

Click **here** to access the full publication.

More
life

Did you know
that...?



Humans are using 30% more resources than the Earth can replenish each year, which is leading to deforestation, degraded soils, polluted air and water, and dramatic declines in numbers of fish and other species.

Much of the garbage from our kitchen and yard can be composted or recycled. If you throw this garbage away with the rest of your garbage, it produces methane, which is even stronger than carbon dioxide in emissions of green house gasses.

© Michel Roggo / WWF-Canon.

Almost half of the planet's original forest has been destroyed, and we continue destroying them at 2% annually.



Aerial view of flooded Amazon forest during the rainy season

© WWF-Canon / Helmut Diller

There has been a 30% decrease of plant and animal populations since 1970.



Drawing of a mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*), a species endangered of extinction

25% of all birds and mammals are in danger of extinction.



Egretta alba feeds from shrimp, crabs and insects, and lives in South American lagoons.

© Roger Leguen / WWF-Canon.

Pesticides and fertilizers use considerable energy during their manufacturing process and are highly contaminant.



Locally produced food helps reducing our CO₂ emissions.

© Katrin Havia / WWF-Finland

September 4th

National Protected Areas Day in Bolivia



This is the fourth year that Bolivia celebrates National Protected Areas Day as a result of the 2005 Supreme Decree N° 28315, issued by the National Service for Protected Areas (Sernap).

Both WWF Bolivia and Sernap promoted this initiative so that Bolivians can learn about the country's rich biodiversity and the need to conserve it for future generations.

There are several categories ranking protected areas in Bolivia, which also indicate the sustainable productive

activities that are allowed and are a clear example that conservation is not incompatible with production and sustainable development.

In Bolivia's protected areas there are examples of this: sustainable Brazil nut production in the Manuripi protected area, school and community vegetable gardens in Iténez, selective collection of solid waste in San Matías, among many others.

Bolivia, one of the 15 most mega-diverse countries on the planet, has a National System of Protected Areas which includes 22 national protected areas, extending over more than 15% of the country's surface area. In addition, Bolivia also has departmental, municipal and private protected areas.

Protected areas provide numerous services to the population:

- Conservation of biological diversity: genes, species and habitat
- Use of natural resources, within those categories that allow it, such as wood, fibers, food, medicine and others
- Provision of water, such as the Carrasco, Amboró or Tiquipaya protected area, which offer numerous agricultural communities and their surroundings with water, including cities such as Cochabamba and Santa Cruz de la Sierra
- Regulation of climate, including rain and temperature
- Production of pollen and shelter for insects that pollinate agricultural crops
- Recreation and tourism. Areas such as Madidi National Park and the Eduardo Avaroa Reserve generate important income through tourism for some of the municipalities.

The National System of Protected Areas aims to conserve the country's natural and cultural patrimony and improve the quality of life of those populations linked to protected areas. These natural areas, with or without human intervention, are protected by the government due to their natural and cultural richness and unique landscapes. The government, represented by Sernap, aims to protect and conserve their flora and fauna, natural ecosystems, watersheds and elements of scientific, aesthetic, social and culture interest for Bolivia, and in this way also contribute to sustainable development.

WWF Bolivia currently supports the protected areas of Iténez (Beni), Manuripi and Bruno Racua (Pando), San Matías and Otuquis (Santa Cruz) and Tiquipaya (Cochabamba), contributing to their effective management. In previous years WWF Bolivia has also supported Amboró, Carrasco and Noel Kempff Mercado PAs.

Train from Kyoto to Copenhagen to raise awareness on climate change ahead of crucial UN conference

The International Union of Railways (UIC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the global conservation organization WWF are supporting a symbolic one-month and nearly 9,000 kilometer-long train journey from Kyoto to Copenhagen to galvanize political will and public support for reaching a comprehensive global climate agreement at the UN climate change conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen in December this year.

The idea is to raise awareness regarding transportation alternatives that are low in carbon emissions; convey eye-witness accounts of global warming signs underway and provide conferences regarding the challenges of the transport sector in the face of global warming. Train operators from around the world will participate in the Train to Copenhagen campaign with the aim of raising awareness of transport's influence on climate change in their own countries, and emphasizing that train transport is environmentally friendly and a sustainable means of transport.

To read the completed press relae please click **here**

For further information
www.traintocopenhagen.org



WWF urges the UE to prohibit use of energy wasting light bulbs

WWF received with enthusiasm the prohibition regarding the use of incandescent light bulbs in effect as of September 1st in the European Union (EU). In addition, other light bulbs, such as halogens, which also waste energy, should be eliminated from the market.

All conventional incandescent light bulbs will be removed from the market by the year 2012, saving 15 million tons of CO₂ annually by the year 2020, equivalent to 9 times the annual total consumption of electricity in Bolivia*.

To access the full press release please click **here**

* Olade, 2003



Energy saving light bulbs

Copenhaguen citizens to reach for the switch as climate spotlight settles on city

- The City of Copenhagen will play host to a single-city Earth Hour in December
- Demonstrates the city's support for world's leaders reaching agreement on fair and effective ways to reduce the risks of climate change
- Launching of new 'Show Your Vote' platform asking people to show their Vote for Earth (over Global Warming) in the lead up to the UN Climate Summit.

WWF's Earth Hour today announced that the City of Copenhagen will play host to a single-city Earth Hour while it hosts the crucial international conference on climate change -COP15.

The special Earth Hour targets the citizens of Copenhagen asking them to turn off their lights for one hour at 7 pm on December 16th, 2009, in demonstration of the city's support for world leaders reaching agreement on fair and effective ways to reduce the risks of catastrophic climate change.

To access the full press release please click [here](#)

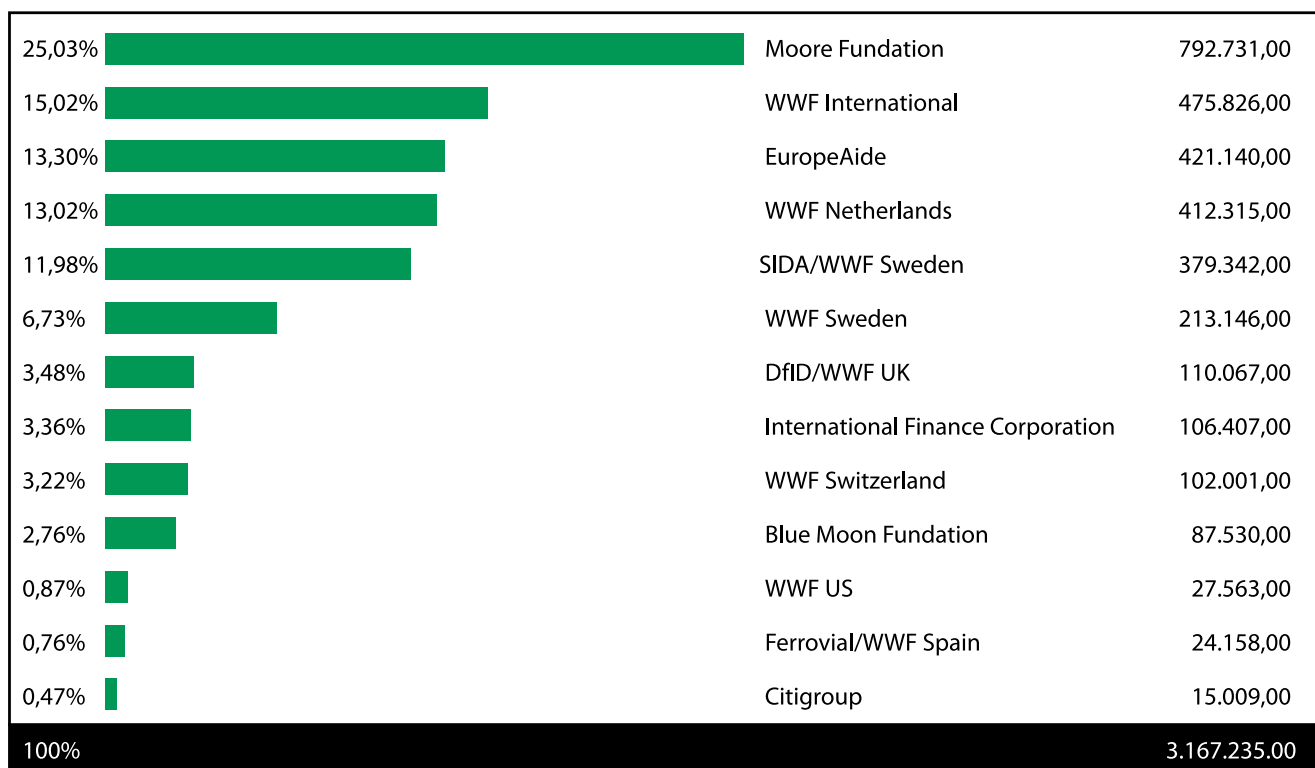


Kids and youngsters celebrating Earth Hour with candles in March 2009

Living Finances

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About WWF

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

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

- conserving the world's biological diversity,
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.