



for a living planet



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WWFolio Bolivia

Living

Editorial

It's possible and we must!


Any previous idea for this editorial has been understandably discarded in view of the urgency and importance of the forest fires in Bolivia, which have extended to natural savannas, pasturelands, fields used for crops, and even gardens. Although these fires occur every year during the dry season, this year has been notoriously worse, having severe effects on our health, the environment and economy of certain productive sectors.

The topic is urgent. The effects suffered this year are the worst I can remember in four decades. The media provides us with alarming data. Family members, friends, neighbors talk of nothing else: *"It's impossible to breathe; our eyes and throat are irritated; it is difficult to sleep with all of our windows and doors shut; it feels so much hotter; we can't exercise outside; visibility is scarce; airports are being closed and flights are being cancelled; the non industrial economy is affected; there is also anguish and nervousness; we fear the fires will reach our homes and the city; wildlife is being burned to death unable to escape; when it rains, it will be acid rain that falls"*, and other comments regarding the negative effects of the fires and evidence of how frightened and worried the population is.

Health and environmental problems are combined, crimes are configured in both of those areas and the economy of certain sectors is challenged. In summary, it appears that we have reached our limit of what is tolerable and that it is urgent to take action. But how?

It is crucial to have authorities that, in strict observance of the law, notify offenders and punish those who are rebellious or re-offenders, whoever these may be. There are already norms for this and it's just a matter of applying them. Exemplary attitudes are needed. The crimes against health, the environment and the economy need firm authorities. If the authorities don't respond then any ordinary citizen has the right – and the obligation – to file complaints with authorities and subsequently, the authorities to support these complaints.

But every year the authorities give the same unconvincing explanations which in fact serve to reveal and expose their incapacity and inability and hide their powerlessness, offering futile expressions of an issue that is not dealt with the required seriousness.



Having already expressed the urgency of the issue we need to now focus on the importance of assuming measures that are integral and long term. It is crucial to develop technological packages for good practices and which productive associations are made aware of and that, aside from complying with the law and adopting good management practices, they self-impose institutional environmental policies that show they are truly responsible corporate citizens, and that their respect for society is not only reflected in generating jobs and currency, but also in a militant respect for health, the environment, and above all, a respect for the rights of others.

Because this takes time it needs to be tackled immediately: research centers need to work on discovering, adjusting and promoting techniques that, being feasible in economic terms, make cattle ranchers stop the habit of burning in order to germinate new pastures; of sugar cane producers to stop the need to burn to facilitate the harvesting of sugar cane; of farmers in general to stop the need to burn to get rid of weeds from crops or to prepare new areas for crop; of small scale farmers to stop practicing slash and burn to prepare areas for their numerous small scale crops; and to the inhabitants in cities and rural

areas to stop burning their household garbage, leaves or other types of waste.

In less than ten years we should be implementing technological packages that respond to this problem. And, meanwhile, society needs to cooperate by understanding that traditional practices engrained in our customs can't change from one year to the next, especially if there is an absence of economic alternatives.

It's difficult yet not impossible and it must be done! This is a golden opportunity for the different governmental offices and political tendencies to show us their added value and how they are making a difference in comparison with past authorities and administrations... beginning with not postponing the issue, although by the time this is published the rains have already provided us with relief.

Adolfo Moreno
Conservation Director

Living Pantanal

The Pantanal: one of eight Ramsar sites in Bolivia

An opportunity for sustainability in the region

The rivers, lakes, lagoons, wetlands, forests and flooded savannas which form part of and feed into the Paraguay River are incredibly rich in biological diversity and sustain amazing numbers of threatened species such as the Marsh deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*), the Hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) and the Giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*). Amphibians and reptiles are also abundant and diverse: Caiman (*Caiman yacare*), Red-footed tortoise (*Chelonia carbonaria*), Anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*), to name only a few. The Bolivian Pantanal has recorded at least 120 species of mammals, 650 species of birds, 90 species of reptiles, 40 species of amphibians, 260 species of fish, 1030 species of butterflies and more than 1650 species of superior plants.

The natural richness of this wetland motivated the Bolivian Government in 2001, through its Ministry of Sustainable Development and Planning and in coordination with the Ramsar Convention, to declare the Bolivian portion of the Pantanal as a wetland of international importance (Ramsar site). The Ministry requested support from WWF to finance producing the required scientific information for the justification regarding the technical declaration. Under this

same framework WWF also technically supported the declaration of three other Ramsar sites in Bolivia: “Palmar de las Islas-Salinas de San José”, “Bañados del Isoso-Río Parapetí” and “Laguna Concepción”.

The designation of the Bolivian Pantanal as a Ramsar site commits the national government to the development of policies and actions that harmonize the region’s development with conservation, as well as promotes the rational use and management of natural resources in the ecoregion.

Article 3 of the Ramsar Convention subscribed to with the Bolivian government states that they will “shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.”

Wetlands related convention subscribed between Ramsar and governments

Source: ramsar.org

-  Ramsar Site
-  National Park
-  Natural Integrated Management Area



Foto: WWF / Gustavo YBARRA

Ramsar sites

Ramsar is the name by which the Convention is known regarding the Wetlands of International Importance, especially as habitat for aquatic species.

The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 156 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1676 wetland sites, totalling 150 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Wetlands are flooded surfaces covered by fresh, salty or salted, stagnant or flowing water. On the other hand, wetlands can be permanently flooded or only be covered by water during certain seasons.

Source: ramsar.org

For further information please contact: Pamela Rebolledo (prebolledo@wwfbolivia.org)

Eco Pantanal 2007

Supporting responsible municipal environmental management

Under the slogan “The natural environment of the Pantanal ensures our quality of life”, the Municipal Government of Puerto Quijarro, through its Environmental and Natural Resources Unit and in coordination with the schools of the Educational District of Puerto Quijarro, organized the first environmental fair for young adults, the “Eco Pantanal 2007”.

The winning school was Central Resguardo presenting “Global warming and the greenhouse effect”. The San Agustín school received second place with their presentation on “Protected areas” and third place was given to the students from the school Pinocho for their presentation and exhibit regarding “Garbage recycling”.

Mr. Marco Da Silva, Municipal Director for the Environment and Natural Resources, stated that “the natural values of the Bolivian Pantanal were strengthened by these young adults through their research and awareness activities on how to preserve the environment and at the same time, achieve harmonious development and ensure the quality of life of its inhabitants”.

These and other projects that strengthen the municipality’s capacity regarding environmental management in the area have been possible thanks to the support of the Bolivian Society for Environmental Law (SBDA), WWF Bolivia and WWF Netherlands.

For further information please contact: Pamela Rebolledo (prebolledo@wwfbolivia.org)





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▶ Bujurquina: (*Bujurquina oenolaemus*)

Endemic fish in the Upper Watershed of the Paraguay River: The Chiquitano cichlid (*Bujurquina oenolaemus*)

The Chiquitano cichlid was discovered by Sven Kullander in 1987. This fish belongs to the Cichlidae family and to date it has only been sighted in the Chiquitano region of Bolivia, more specifically in the River Aguas Calientes, located 25 km from Roboré and where the only sighting and data for the species is known. It reaches close to 7 cm in length in its adult stage and is characterized by being able to withstand high temperatures (41°C) in the river where it lives. Due to its size, it is considered a dwarf Cichlid of South America and feeds primarily on small snails by grinding the shell with special teeth located in the area of its pharynx. The genus (*Bujurquina*) makes reference to “bujurqui”, a native word by which Cichlids are referred to in Peru. The name of the species (*Bujurquina*

oenolaemus) comes from the Greek language (*oinos*=wine and *laimos*=throat) making reference to the wine colour of its throat.

Under the initiative of and in collaboration with WWF, a group of scientists from the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum is researching the biological diversity of the Upper Watershed of the Paraguay River. The information will soon be published in the book entitled “Biodiversity of the Pantanal”. Information on this publication will be provided in the next issue of the WWFolio.

For further information please contact: Pamela Rebolledo (prebolledo@wwfbolivia.org)

San Matías Protected Area celebrates its tenth anniversary

The San Matías Protected Area celebrated its tenth anniversary in July 2007 by organizing a series of activities in Santa Cruz city, in various communities within the protected area and in San Matías as well. In addition, WWF received a special recognition from the National Service for Protected Areas (SERNAP), presented on behalf of its director, Mr. Adrián Nogales, expressing appreciation for the institutional support provided to this protected area since its creation in 1997.

Roger Landivar, Country Representative for WWF Bolivia, receiving a special recognition from the Sernap, presented on behalf of its director, Mr. Adrián Nogales. ►



Waste management with local participation

Aiming at continuing with the support to the waste management with local participation programme, WWF Bolivia and the Municipal Government of Puerto Quijarro have signed a new agreement in October. This programme was implemented in 2006 in the community of Santa Clara (northern Bolivian Pantanal) and through it a Women Association was created, that has assumed the challenge to transform waste into economic dividends, and thus contributing to keeping the city clean, manage and reduce the amount of garbage that gets to the dump.



Living

Amazon

At Iténez River in Bolivia:

Continental scale monitoring confirms highest count of South American River Dolphin

WWF Bolivia, through its partner Faunagua and with funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (WWF US) concluded the last stretch of the Monitoring of the River Dolphin in South America, which for the past 14 months has been carried out by Omacha Foundation (Colombia), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDACS) and WWF Colombia in the Amazon and Orinoquia: Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela.

This last trip along the Iténez River bordered three protected areas: Iténez and Noel Kempff in Bolivia and Corumbiara in Brazil, and it had very positive monitoring results, surpassing previous expeditions: 941 River dolphins of the species *Inia boliviensis*, endemic to the Upper Watershed of the Madeira River.

The scientists covered 598 km between August 12th and 24th, of which they travelled between 75 and 85 km per day at an average speed of 10km/h, with a combination of strip-transects along the shore and line-transects randomly crossing the river, the same methodology used in the previous stretches covered by this continental monitoring and which has allowed to have, for the first time, standardized data from the entire area studied (Amazon and Orinoco basins). Additionally, the area was stratified according to the type of habitat.



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► Bufeos (*Inia boliviensis*) en el Río Iténez

The Iténez Protected Area

The Iténez River borders the northeastern limit of the Departmental Park and Natural Area of Integrated Management Iténez (PD ANMI Iténez), located in the northeastern portion of Bolivia and Department of the Beni and more specifically, in the municipalities of Magdalena and Baures in the Iténez Province on the border with Bolivia and Brazil. This protected area has a surface area of 1,389,025 ha and includes 14 indigenous and rural settlements.

It is highly likely that the Iténez River watershed is the most important sanctuary for the South American River Dolphin (*Inia boliviensis*) in Bolivia, as well as for other aquatic mammal species such as the Giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*).

For further information please contact: Lila Sainz (lsainz@wwfbolivia.org)

The Bolivian Armed Forces and the Environmental Sentry Project

In celebration of the National Protected Areas Day in Bolivia (September 4th), the Prefecture of the Department of the Beni, together with the Bolivian Armed Forces and in collaboration with WWF Bolivia and the Moore Foundation / WWF US, officially launched the “Environmental Sentry” Project, which aims at incorporating environmental and conservation issues and material in their training sessions.

Trainers are being formed in 12 military units, six of which are in the area of influence of the Iténez Protected Area, where WWF is working. The training is hoped to reach 2000 soldiers and is being provided through workshops and text books describing natural resources, the threats faced and how to confront these in order to preserve the environment under sustainability criteria.

For further information please contact: Lila Sainz (lsainz@wwfbolivia.org)



A walk on a bed of clouds:

A day in the Tiquipaya Reserve

By: Nardyn Pizarro

The trip began very early at dawn leaving the city of Cochabamba at 5:30 a.m., when it was barely 10°C and the glow of the moon still covered the city. Our project partner and trip companions, staff of our partner NGO Integrated Center for the Defense of Ecology and Rural Development (Cideder), picked us up at the hotel and hosted our visit to the site where a shelter is being built with funding from WWF.

After four hours of traveling and having passed the summit of the mountain as well as a part of the Altiplano in Cochabamba, we arrived at Yunga Pampa, location where the puna ends and the yunga forest begins, which earlier on the trip was not discernable due to the clouds that covered the landscape. This impressive place, enclave of landscapes and ecosystems where the puna – home to llamas and hares – and the yunga, natural habitat for the Spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), meet.

A few hours into the trip we decided to stop in the middle of one of the highland pasture areas to have our breakfast of fresh bread and cheese. Between the sub-watershed of the Torreni Mayu River and the puna, we visited the mysterious cave paintings (at 4100 m.a.s.l.), legacy to ancient cultures and which are believed to represent sacred sites and encompass a mystic magnetism, traces of man's presence thousands of years ago. Among the drawings there are figures that represent the flora and fauna found in the area: llamas, frogs, snakes, as well as representations of the sun and moon and a reflection as well of the cosmogony of these first inhabitants.



Mr. Alfredo Soria, a forester working at Cideder and in charge of forestry management in the communities residing within and surrounding the Tiquipaya Reserve, also believes that “the ancient inhabitants already dominated the altitudinal ecological zones of the forest and puna; and thus explains the representations found on these enigmatic stones”.

All along our trip we found beauty in so many unique landscapes: in lakes with crystalline water where trout has been introduced or in the clouds in Huaripucara; the exceptional beauty of the variety of altitudinal ecological zones, from the clouded forest to the Andean foot hill forest and to the puna. These characteristics have allowed for incredible biodiversity, many times endemic, and habitat and shelter for mammals such as the Andean deer (*Hippocamelus antisensis*), Spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) and the Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*).

When we finally reached our final objective – the shelter under construction – it was already 11:00 a.m. and, with the sun shining brightly, we stood on the mountain and gazed below, in awe of the surrealist landscape of clouds which seemed almost to invite us *to take a walk on this bed of clouds* into the infinite blue sky stretching into the horizon. After 20 minutes or so, these very same clouds slowly and gently engulfed us releasing a soft drizzle.

Luckily there was still time to further explore this incredible place and we began descending the mountain in search of a spot to have our lunch of charque (dehydrated and salted meat), boiled potatoes and corn, cheese and Bolivia’s famous hot sauce known as llajua (made from hot peppers, tomatoes and quirquiña). Our lunch spot was special too, as we ate surrounded by large boulders and the sound of trickling water falling among them.



We also had the chance to observe the figure that had been drawn on the foundation of the construction of the shelter, the Andean cross or Chakana, considered by the ancient inhabitants of the Andes as the symbol for the universe, as the forces of creation of the sun and the Earth inspired the Andean world. The cross with its four cardinal points represented the three elements of life: air, soil and water.

This shelter is a pilot experience within a municipal protected area – Northern Tiquipaya Reserve, and it is aimed at sheltering park guards, as well as technicians, local population that travels by carrying – for example – their honey, as well as tourists.

With this we began our return to the city arriving just in time to catch our flight back to Santa Cruz.

OUR PARTNERS

Cideder

The Integrated Center for the Defense of Ecology and Rural Development (Cideder) is an NGO in Cochabamba (Bolivia) established in 1992 with the objective of contributing to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the rural inhabitants through activities focused on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Cideder's mission is to promote the sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of biological diversity to improve the quality of life of the rural communities, yet at the same time respecting their ethnic and cultural identity.

Cideder's institutional experience encompasses activities such as:

- Protected areas management
- Environmental conservation
- Management and sustainable use of natural resources
- Environmental monitoring with Leica technology under the Lidar system (Aero-GIS).

Cideder has been working with WWF since 2001 in support of conservation and sustainable development of the current Northern Tiquipaya Municipal Wildlife Reserve and the Mosestén Indigenous Communal Land (referred to as TCO).

For further information please contact: cideder@supernet.com.bo



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▶ Participants of the exchange

WWF promotes the strengthening between Bolivian and Peruvian Reserves

The Director and Forestry Coordinator for the Manuripi National Wildlife Reserve in Bolivia, together with our colleague Favio Ríos, Coordinator for WWF's office in Pando, traveled to Madre de Dios in Peru to strengthen inter-institutional relations, exchange experiences and hear about lessons learned with the Tambopata National Reserve in Peru.

The timing of the visit couldn't have been better considering that the Manuripi Reserve is developing its non timber forestry management program as well as promoting the consolidation of its Management Committee.

"During the three-day-visit we learned about Brazil nut projects including management plans that have been implemented since 1998 in the Tambopata Reserve through ACCA (Association for the Conservation of the Amazon Watershed) and Ascart (Brazil nut Association of the Tambopata Reserve). We also visited Brazil nut groves in the Tambopata Reserve which have been awarded FSC certification and are showing visible benefits in terms of improving the quality of life of those individuals who earn their living from harvesting Brazil nuts. In addition, we had the opportunity to presence the

consolidation of the Management Committee in terms of local participation in the management of protected areas and were also able to visit park guard surveillance posts and learn about their environmental education programs", informed Favio Ríos.

This field trip, in addition to providing direct information on the experiences from the local actors in terms of their management and participation efforts within the Tambopata Reserve, also gave staff members from the Manuripi Reserve the chance to consolidate contacts with their counterparts in Tambopata for future coordination efforts, develop joint learning processes and thus be able to improve protected area management capacities, including the consolidation of the Management Committee and strengthening of the local participation in this rich Amazon region shared by both countries.

This visit would not have been possible without the warm welcome and collaboration extended on behalf of the Tambopata National Reserve and its Management Committee. Many thanks to Marta Torres and Víctor Zambrano!

For further information please contact: Favio Ríos (frios@wwfbolivia.org)

Living Forests

panda.org/bolivia/ftn The FTN and market links via the Internet

If your company is a participant of the Bolivia FTN (Forest and Trade Network) and needs information on the demand in Europe for certified wood products; or if you are interested in providing information on your supply to potential markets in the north...

You can now access this and other information first hand because the Bolivia FTN's web page (www.panda.org/bolivia/ftn) is available and includes a virtual Business Center in which you will find the demands from buyer company members of the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) from 30 countries worldwide. You will also be able to upload your supply including photos, characteristics of your products, and other relevant information.

In addition, you can access the Forum, available to participating companies and in which ideas can be exchanged, share news from the sector, comments, consult the GFTN Network, and much more.

If your company is not yet a part of the Bolivia FTN, we invite you to become a member and receive the benefits of these services as well as work together towards the responsible management of our forests through the signing and implementation of a Responsible Purchase Policy for your company.

Bolivia Forest and Trade Network (FTN)

The Bolivia FTN is a WWF initiative that brings together producer and selling companies of FSC certified products. These companies, through their participation in the Bolivia FTN, are benefited with new market opportunities, financing mechanisms for their management and responsible forestry trade, assessment to increase and / or improve productive capacity and market research for new species. The Bolivia FTN is one of the 30 member networks of the GFTN of WWF, and to date it groups together seven Bolivian processing companies and producers of timber products that are FSC certified or in process of becoming certified.

Responsible Purchase Policy

A Responsible Purchase Policy is one of the best mechanisms for a company or institution to become motivated and move forward in implementing the practice of purchasing certified forest products or those that come from forests under management. This consists of an institutional statement establishing the reference framework to be able to insert environmental criteria in the selection of wood products in their acquisition plans. A good policy should precisely define all issues related to the acquisition of forestry products that the company intends to restructure, including the identification of the origin of forest products, which wood sources are and are not acceptable, as well as issuing a commitment statement on behalf of the company regarding this responsible consumption of forest products.

Participating forestry companies in the FTN are already implementing their Responsible Purchase Policy

The Bolivia FTN has been developing a series of workshops directed at all of the staff from the seven companies which make up the FTN in order to share the Responsible Purchase Policy adopted by the companies in La Paz, Cochabamba and Riberalta.

These workshops have informed executives, administrative staff as well as managers and operators of the guidelines undertaken by the company towards the adoption and implementation of this Responsible Purchase Policy for forest products under the framework of the Bolivia FTN.



Participating companies of the Bolivia FTN:

Anatina Toys
Ecolegno
Jolyka
La Chonta Woods Ltda.
Mabet
Multiagro
SumaPacha

Candidate companies to the Bolivia FTN:

Bosques Tropicales
Industria Maderera San Luis
Solwood
Taller Artesanal Bolivia
Taller Artesanal Hermanos Guasase

For further information please contact: María del Carmen Carreras (mcarreras@wwfbolivia.org)

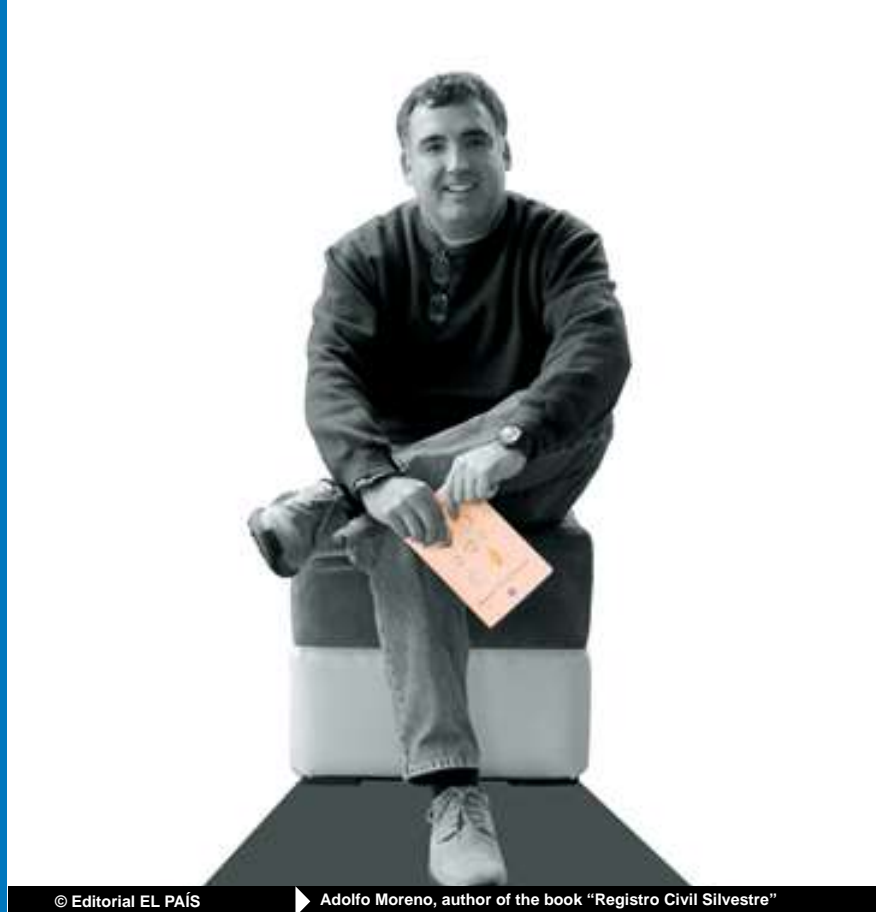


More Life

Registro Civil Silvestre Celebrating nature in verses

Shifting a bit from what we usually deliver in our WWFolio, we would like to share with you a different and more personal aspect of one of our colleagues, our amateur writer and Conservation Director for WWF Bolivia, Mr. Adolfo Moreno, who recently authored his first book, *Registro Civil Silvestre* (which means something like “A Civil Registry for Nature”), containing texts written in verse admiring and celebrating the biodiversity that surrounds us in Bolivia.

This year has introduced us to several writings that Adolfo has been scribbling for quite some time. And, as if saying “welcome” to the approaching spring season, in September he began writing for a supplemental magazine, *Extra*, published by the local newspaper *El Deber* in their Sunday edition. The section, presented under the same name as his book, *Registro Civil Silvestre*, features articles on natural history presenting a new species each week.



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▶ Adolfo Moreno, author of the book “Registro Civil Silvestre”

We asked Adolfo what inspired him to feel such a pressing need for expression and joy for nature to which he answered: “We live in the midst of an amazing biodiversity. I am astonished and react by expressing praise as well as verbal and written compliments using an abundance of words to enhance the attributes of the species that surround me, celebrating the joy of living among them, remembering and enjoying their names and claiming my right to continue enjoying them so that my children can do the same. I sit down to write without fear of coming across as exaggerated or overly sentimental, because I like to write, because I like the topic, and it's my way of fulfilling the obligation I feel of communicating to the world how special the world is that I live in”.

For further information please contact: Adolfo Moreno
(amoreno@wwfbolivia.org)

Living

Finances

WWF Bolivia provides national institutions with financing through grants for projects which fall under a common agenda between the partner organizations and WWF and based on what has been agreed upon with the primary donors financing WWF.

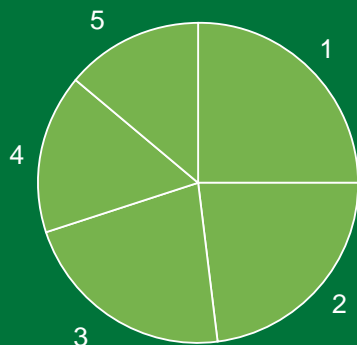
During fiscal year 2007 (July 2006 to June 2007), WWF Bolivia worked with 21 partner institutions in Bolivia, investing US\$ 1,316,603. Of these partners:

- 5 got a grant above US\$ 100,000
- 9 got a grant above US\$ 20,000 and
- 7 got a grant below this amount.

Meet WWF Bolivia's partners:

Partners who got a grant above
US\$ 100,000 each

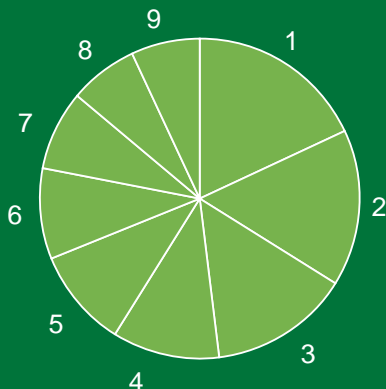
Total: US\$ 873,767



- 1 Prefectura del Beni 25%
- 2 Apcob 23%
- 3 FaunAgua 22%
- 4 Prefectura de Pando 16%
- 5 Iphae 14%

**Partners who got a grant above
US\$ 20,000 each**

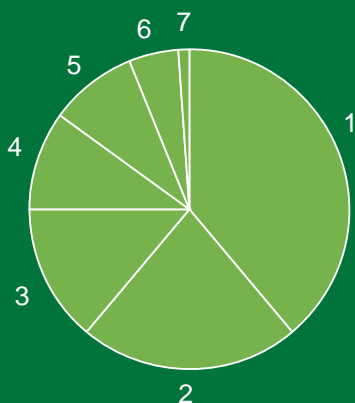
Total: US\$ 412,503



- 1 Aarenarmapa 18%
- 2 Sernap Manuripi 16%
- 3 SIF 14%
- 4 Ibif 11%
- 5 Coinacapa 10%
- 6 SBDA 9%
- 7 Fuamu 8%
- 8 CFV 7%
- 9 CFB 7%

**Partners who got a grant lower than
US\$ 20,000 each**

Total: US\$ 30,333



- 1 Cadefor 39%
- 2 Acerm 22%
- 3 Fun. Noel Kempff Mercado 14%
- 4 Cibapa 10%
- 5 Fundav 9%
- 6 MHNNKM 5%
- 7 Distrital de Educación San Matías 1%



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Edition: WWF Bolivia • Graphic desingn: Barbián Comunicación

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.

for a living planet