



# WWFolio Bolivia

FOR A LIVING PLANET

Informative publication regarding WWF's work in Bolivia

4th Edition – December 2005



# LIVING Editorial

## 2005: significant achievements and temporary difficulties

The year has passed swiftly, almost at cybernetic speeds, and with it the publication of four WWFolios. This fourth edition is filled with achievements and news. Throughout the year, the WWFolio has opportunely and clearly reported the difficulties and achievements of our work; difficulties that, as is to be expected, are the result of an intervention and interaction of a mix of diverse forces that are both positive and negative. These achievements of course have not been accomplished alone and are the result of a joint effort with many other organizations and individuals.

From the declaration of a new protected area in Pando, the inclusion of new projects and initiatives in the forestry area, the derogation of the protected area status of Altamachi and in the continuous search for the consolidation of partnerships in the Iténez, to the approval of a tailored educational curriculum for the Pantanal, the publication of the Puerto Busch Study and the recent and unjust closing of our field office in Puerto Suárez, 2005 has been a truly intense year with its tones of lights and shadows, and passed to be another landmark in our constant struggle for the responsible use of our natural heritage.

As Bolivians we have also suffered a year filled with uncertainty in which the use and ownership of natural resources has been one of the most conflictive issues. The social and political situation has had streaks of drama to the extreme of even doubting the viability of the republic as it currently exists. Fortunately, as Bolivians we always find a way in which to stay united and this will not be an exception.

In summary, with significant achievements and passing difficulties we continue ahead with optimism and joy, striving to maintain a vision that allows us to contribute towards stopping environmental degradation and building a future in which humans and nature coexist in harmony.

Spirits up! It is a time of peace, happiness, hope and love. It is a time of celebration and respect for all Creation!

Adolfo Moreno  
Conservation Director



# LIVING Pantanal

## Educational curriculum: a commitment with the future based on dedication and inspiration

WWF has been working in the Bolivian Pantanal since 1997 when it first supported the Prefecture of Santa Cruz in consolidating the process for the creation of two protected areas in the ecoregion: San Matías Integrated National Management Area and the Otuquis National Park and Integrated National Management Area.

### Environmental training

Education has been a cornerstone of WWF's Pantanal Program since the very beginning. First efforts were geared towards a participatory process to train 54 environmental promoters from approximately 20 communities in the provinces of Ángel Sandóval and Germán Busch. Some of these promoters are today park guards for the Otuquis and San Matías protected areas, while others are authorities in their communities. The result of this effort, implemented by our partner NGO PROCESO Educational Services, was the publication of a "Teachers Guide" with supporting text containing information on conservation, protected areas, wetlands and the environment in general, for children from grades one through six, establishing a

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wetland!

Participants of Pantanal Otuquis Club



foundation from which to prioritize, orient and efficiently direct educational efforts.

#### **Audubon Schoolyard Ecology Initiative**

In 2003, our other current partner NGO, the Noel Kempff Museum's Friends Foundation (FUAMU), joined the educational efforts promoted by WWF, contributing important technical assistance and introducing the Audubon Schoolyard Ecology Initiative in the Germán Busch Province, which served to instill in the teachers and students questions related to their immediate environment and which they could later apply in diverse situations. This coincides with the inauguration of information centers for Otuquis (located in Puerto Suárez) and San Matías (located in Candelaria), both of which were closely coordinated with the schools in the areas, as well as the National Service for Protected Areas (SERNAP), including support from directors, teachers and protected area staff.

A result of this process was the spontaneous creation, at the initiative of children and teenagers in the region, of the Pantanal Otuquis Club. This club met regularly to organize and present different educational activities (puppets, fairs, among others) to local

audiences. One of their main projects was the radio program known as Magical Pantanal which, after a training process, was produced and aired as a live program presented by the Club members themselves.

#### **The wetland curriculum**

The experience accumulated in education served as a foundation to develop the curriculum for the schools in the Pantanal ecoregion. The wetland curriculum aims to introduce students to basic concepts regarding the environment and conservation in line with the Educational Reform which "identifies the need for natural sciences to be a transversal element in the formal education".

The challenges faced in developing this curriculum were encountered in the way in which it was carried forward:

- In a participatory manner
- Collecting and expressing the needs identified by the teachers
- Demonstrating technical solvency in order for subsequent approval on behalf of the Ministry of Education and thus ensuring its implementation as a guiding text by the teachers.

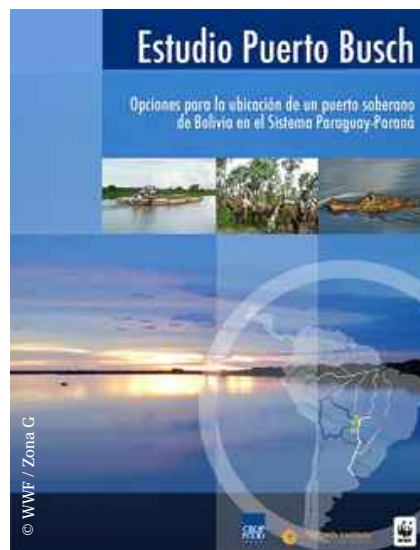
nder this scenario, WWF signed agreements with the Departmental Educational Service under the Prefecture of Santa Cruz and the Municipal Educational Districts aiming to:

- Compile, systematize and organize the efforts carried out in the field of environmental education as of 1998
- Share systematized information with teachers in the three educational districts: Puerto Suárez, Puerto Quijarro and San Matías, obtaining impressions, feedback on needs and expectations related to the construction of a curriculum for the Pantanal
- Develop a draft of the curriculum based on technical guidelines from the Educational Reform.

This draft was implemented during the 2005 school year and after an evaluation on behalf of the educational authorities, the Ministry officially approved the the curriculum, which was designed exclusively for the Pantanal yet taking into consideration the environmental transversal and in total accordance with the Educational Reform.

Currently FUAMU, PROCESO and WWF are working on a final version of the curriculum which needs to be ready for official implementation for the 2006 school year. The next editions of WWFolio will provide further information on the final content of the curriculum.

This important achievement in the area of education has been possible thanks to the commitment of two partner organizations: PROCESO and FUAMU, especially from their technical staff: Maité Hernando, Ana María Zenteno and Marcel Caballero.



## Puerto Busch Study

As of October 2005, WWF has been distributing the “Puerto Busch Study – Options for the location of a sovereign port for Bolivia on the Paraguay-Paraná River System”, representing a joint publication carried out with the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the New Zealand Institute for Crop and Food Research, under the guidance and participation of national experts. The Study offers an analysis of the current proposal presented by the Bolivian Railway-Port Society (SFPB) for the construction of a port and connecting railway line within the Pantanal Otuquis National Park and Integrated Natural Management Area (and a declared Ramsar site). The document also provides scientific information about the area under consideration for the infrastructure project as well as an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative scenarios to expand Bolivian exports via the Atlantic. The following are a handful of some of the Study’s the main conclusions:

- The proposed engineering design for the railway and port terminal infrastructure is not adapted to the conditions of the Pantanal.

- Both the railway and port would be constructed on unstable land and thus subject to considerable deformations and would require large investments in terms of materials that are not available in the region as well as of costly support infrastructure currently not considered in the proposal.
- A good portion of the railway line is subject to flooding that can reach up to five meters in depth in some areas. This is due because in spite of the flat appearance of the land there are differences in terms of altitude of a couple of meters causing a depression in the narrow passage way of the area known as Dionisio Foianini Triangle, in which the level of flooding is greater than what is recorded on the bank at the river's edge. However, even without considering these differences in terms of the level of the land, the terreplein upon which the railway line would be constructed has been calculated with a height of three meters (on average) along its entire course, according to what is proposed by the SFPB.
- The complexity of the Paraguay River in terms of its hydrology and tributaries has been underestimated, and the bimodal behaviour of the river has not considered. In addition, the presence of courses of water is not recognized – ephemeral and permanent – along the route that the railway would run.
- Thus, sufficient care has not been taken to consider the water flow on the land surface proposed for the construction of the infrastructure nor the distinct and differentiated cycles in terms of the filling and draining of the Pantanal in the region. The proposed design would put large areas at risk while others to drought due to the dam effect caused by the terreplein for the train.
- The location of the port is inadequate considering that it would be on a curve along the river that is eroding and in a process of receding.

This is confirmed through aerial photographs and satellite images that show scars left by old courses of the river in its migration towards Bolivian territory (in that sector).

- As with the water flow, the natural flows of fauna in their search for food, shelter or reproduction can be jeopardized by a terreplein that does not consider sufficient passage ways.
- With all these considerations, as well as many others that we don't mention in this brief summary, the construction costs are underestimated and costs required for maintenance practically ignored.
- The calculations regarding savings in terms of freight costs have numerous deficiencies. The Study shows that instead of being comparatively favourable for export, as intended by the proposal, the exporter would have to pay more using the port in Dionisio Foianini than through the port currently available in Tamengo Channel.
- The Study shows that in addition to the SFPB proposal being expensive and inefficient, there is an alternative that fulfils the priority goals as set forth by the Government (export of greater volumes at a lower cost and from a sovereign port) including the long sought after development desires. This alternative implies developing a greater port capacity in the Tamengo Channel, which yet allows preserving the Pantanal and thus allowing for ecotourism and a recreational area for future generations.

The Study and the errata can be accessed (currently available in Spanish, including executive summary in English) at 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](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/latin_america_and_caribbean/where/bolivia/publications/publication.cfm?uNewsID=24336&uLangid=4)

# LIVING Forests & Amazon

## Towards the construction of an ecoregional governance

From a conservation point of view, an ecoregional focus seems like an excellent opportunity to confront challenges that go beyond border limits and thus require a vision and capacity for concerted action.

From an organizational and political point of view, this approach presented interesting challenges for any actor intending to intervene at the regional scale, yet without losing sight of the local cultural, social, political and economic dimensions; and, without losing sight of its peculiarities in terms of organizational structure, including its challenges, opportunities, experiences and pace.

Regardless of how one looks at this, relevant questions emerge: How to generate shared strategies based on recognizing the differences and complementarities? How to create learning opportunities between actors whose agendas and priorities many times only partially overlap? How to work on a regional level without neglecting particular needs at the local level or vice versa? How to create and cultivate opportunities between actors to maximize the potential for consensus and reduce conflicts?

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The largest tract  
of intact humid  
forest in the  
world!



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▲  
*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris* in  
Iténez

These and other questions are part of the process in sharing work as well as the construction of a strategy and ecoregional governance promoted by WWF's Southwest Amazon offices. Under this framework a meeting was held with staff from the WWF offices located in Acre (Brazil), Puerto Maldonado and Lima (Peru), Washington, Santa Cruz and Cobija (Bolivia).

The meeting allowed for the discussion of technical issues based on the most important conservation threats faced by the ecoregion, including determining factors and the relevance of confronting these through certain strategies, as well as the opportunity and need to achieve alliances with other actors in the region.

It also was an opportunity to consolidate a process of strategic coordination and ecoregional monitoring, establishing the foundation for shared governance at the ecoregional level. WWF Bolivia is optimistic and enthusiastic regarding the development of this process.

## Application of the Audubon's Schoolyard Ecology Initiative in Iténez

With support from WWF and through our partner Rescue in your Hands (REMA), efforts were coordinated with the authorities and district educational office in the municipalities of Magdalena and Baures, as well as the Prefecture of the Beni Department, to train teachers in schools located in the communities of Magdalena, Baures, Bella Vista and the Iténez Protected Area on how to use Audubon's methodology.

What is Audubon's Schoolyard Ecology Initiative? Through Audubon's Schoolyard Ecology Initiative, children and teachers from schools experience first hand actions to inquire about local ecological processes and its effects on people and environment.

This is the first training offered in these municipalities and it was very well received on behalf of the students and teachers. Given that the request to participate on behalf of the teachers was higher than expected and because of a lack of space, the teachers that were able to participate have now become trainers themselves and are showing others how to use this teaching methodology.

The first results of this research experience were presented during the III National Science and Ecology Congress, "Science in our Hands", held in August 2005 in Santa Cruz.





#### Erratum

On page 15 of WWFolio Nº 3, due to unintentional oversight, we failed to mention that our partner and promoter of the abovementioned Congress "Science in our Hands" was Rescue in our Hands (REMA).

## OUR PARTNERS

Through grants, WWF enters into a partnership with local organizations transferring the full or partial management of a project. In this and future editions of the WWFolio we will present, one by one, our national partners.

### REMA - Rescue in our Hands



REMA is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization working in the areas of education, research and dissemination of information in favour of conservation and the management of natural and cultural resources. It initiated its activities in October 2000 with the training of school teachers in the urban area on the use of Audubon's Schoolyard Ecology Initiative. Later, it began an educational process oriented towards strengthening and supporting formal and alternative education with emphasis on ecology and the conservation of natural resources.

### Areas of action

REMA works on three different levels: research, education and dissemination in both urban and rural areas, with municipalities and civil society, giving priority to formal educational sectors, rural communities and national protected areas.

For further information please contact: [erivera@rema-bo.org](mailto:erivera@rema-bo.org) / [www.rema-bo.org](http://www.rema-bo.org) / +591-3-3448836 / Santa Cruz, Bolivia



### Creation of the Prefectural Decentralized Protected Areas Unit (UDAP) in Beni

Through Prefectural Resolution 79/05 the Prefectural Decentralized Protected Areas Unit (UDAP) was created in Beni. The UDAP emerges from a need to guarantee the integral management of the Iténez Departmental Park and Integrated Natural Management Area, as well as other future departmental protected areas. Administratively, it is held accountable to the Prefecture's Office for Natural Resources and Environment in Beni.

Under the agreement signed with the Prefecture, WWF has been financially supporting the operation of the UDAP, including facilitating the development of planning and monitoring strategies for departmental protected areas to be implemented in the future, as well as a financial strategy.




## Brazil nut management with COINACAPA, CIFOR and Sena

In September, WWF, under its “Forest & Life - Integral Vision for the Development of the Amazon” Project began working with the Integral Agro-extractive Farmers Cooperative of Pando (COINACAPA), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Municipality of Sena.

This consists in developing a Brazil nut Management Plan in the community of Turi located in the Municipality of Sena, under the technical norms of Brazil nut management plans, organic certification and responsibility norms regarding quality required by international markets to improve the product. This is a pilot project and includes the active participation in the implementation of the activities with members of the community.

## OUR PARTNERS

### COINACAPA - Integral Agro-extractive Farmers Cooperative of Pando

 Interview with Mr. Fidel Apuri, Administrative Coordinator, and Mr. Feliciano Ibaguari, Certification Instructor

*How was COINACAPA formed?*

COINACAPA consists of 306 partners from 33 communities. We have been working for five years, and during the last two years the organization has been led by Brazil nut collectors. We are represented by an Administrative and Surveillance Council. There is also a sub-directory and active participation on behalf of women. We work with a tremendous sense of responsibility, spirit of participation, performance and commitment.

*What do you consider as COINACAPA's greatest achievements?*

We have a consolidated Cooperative after three years of support from ACRA (Association for Rural Cooperation in Africa and Latin America), and now we are working independently and the entire region is very proud of us. Two other important achievements are that the farming sector obtains representation through this Cooperative and thus we have contributed to putting Brazil nut back on the agenda in the Vaca Diez Province.

The Brazil nut tree and nut itself have a significant economic and social value. And for those that are part of the chain – from the collector to the vendor – improving their standard of living depends on the international marketing of this product.





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*What do you consider as the coinciding point in terms of the work carried out by COINACAPA and the objectives of the Project “Forest & Life”?*

WWF supports the productive chain, the norms that must be complied with in order to export a high quality product; this allows complementing our knowledge with the Brazil nut harvesting process.

Through the aforementioned Project we are becoming stronger both as an organization and technically in terms of Brazil nut management ensuring that members continue interested.

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## The Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN)

In October, representatives of WWF and GFTN from 11 countries met in Peru. The objective of the meeting was to enhance the vision, mission and focus of the GFTN in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, it was analyzed how this Network is expressed within the mission of WWF and its Forests for Life Program.

WWF Bolivia participated in the meeting as part of its incorporation into the GFTN, as well as under the objective of establishing key contacts to benefit Bolivian forest producers. This was framed under WWF Bolivia's component regarding forest commercialization and responsible markets, aiming to increase the national and international demand for Bolivian forest products forthcoming from a sound management and certified sources, based on the tolls and marketing concepts developed by WWF and the GFTN.



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The GFTN is a global program promoted by WWF for responsible forestry management and commercialization. It is made up of 402 companies that share the objective of international commerce for certified timber products as a way in which to improve practices regarding forest management and, at the same time, contribute to economic development. There are 22 regional networks that make up the GFTN.

The companies that make up the Network represent a high percentage in terms of the world's consumption of timber: Among these we can mention, for example, IKEA, Habitat for Humanity, Stanley Tools, Timbmet and other actors such as forest owners, furniture companies, architects, construction companies, retailers and investors.

## Silvicultural research

In November 2004, with support from WWF, four permanent parcels of 20 ha were established in the Forest Management Plan under the Indigenous Central Office for the Bajo Paragúá (CIBAPA).

The large scale parcels have been installed and are being monitored by the Bolivian Institute for Forestry Research (IBIF) with financing from WWF Sweden / SIDA. These parcels will allow expanding research towards a forest for which there is very little information. In addition, the results obtained will allow defining forest management practices that are environmentally adequate and economically favourable.

Since November, WWF has been supporting the evaluation stage related to the application of different silvicultural treatments. This effort also contributes to the CIBAPA being able to take one step further in the Stepwise Approach System –in use by WWF and the GFTN – aiming to help them obtain FSC certification in the medium term.

## Exchange of experiences between Bolivia and Nicaragua

In October an evaluation under the Stepwise Approach System was carried out for the forestry operation under the General Management Plan for the Momené Community belonging to the Guarayos Indigenous Communal Land.

As part of the exchange regarding forest experiences among WWF offices in Latin America, this evaluation received assistance from Mr. Oswaldo Trejos from WWF Central America, who shared experiences of





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the Nicaraguan Miskita in the Autonomous Region of the Northern Atlantic.

The evaluation team, which also included technical staff from the Amazonian Center for Sustainable Forest Enterprise (CADEFOR), BOLFOR II Guarayos and the Central Organization for Native Guarayos People (COPNAG), extended the use of this tool to other actors that provide assistance in community forestry management.

The Momené community has been receiving technical assistance from WWF through CADEFOR and IBIF for the planning regarding forest management, harvesting, industrial safety and health, among others. In addition, efforts are also being developed towards forest certification under the framework of a commercial alliance of the community with the buyer INPA Parket.

This evaluation will identify the primary actions needed to ensure that the assistance provided is effective and consolidates the forest management within the community.

# LIVING Publications



## Illustrated Guide of Bolivia's Main Forestry Species

This guide helps in the identification of 68 important tree species from an economic and ecological perspective in the Amazon and Chiquitania area, as well as the transition areas between both. The field guide lists 64 wood species and four palm species and is organized alphabetically by their common names. There is also a color photo accompanying each species as well as detailed descriptions including information on the plant itself, outstanding features and characteristics of the bark, leaves, branches, flowers and fruit, among others.

Each page also includes an inset with the common name of the species, its scientific name and family to which it belongs, as well as its economic importance. For many of the species, information is also included on its flowering and fructification, and other related information.

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# More LIFE

## Bolivian park guards participate in the Ibero-American Congress

Approximately 100 park guards met in Santiago, Chile for the Ibero-American Park Guard Congress.

The Bolivian delegation consisted of 20 park guards led by Ms. Carola Vaca, President of the Bolivian Association of Conservation Agents (ABOLAC). Ms Vaca was also named as the representative of the International Park Guard Federation for South America for 2006.

Some of the issues discussed were protected area legislation, the changing role of park guards in globalized countries, the link between indigenous communities in planning processes and decision making, to name a few.

WWF, supporting the exchange of knowledge, experiences and contributing to the strengthening of ABOLAC, provided resources for the transportation of the Bolivian delegation to Chile.



## New departmental protected area under sustainable development



Interview with Jhonn Gómez, Executive Director for the National Service for Protected Areas (SERNAP)

*What is SERNAP's position regarding the integration of transboundary protected areas?*

Significant progress has been possible because we have greater knowledge and experience in the administration of protected areas and thus we have learned that biodiversity does not recognize nor does it have borders; there is a relationship between protected areas in border regions and it is necessary to collaborate among institutions to carry out joint actions for their conservation.

It is important to share experiences between countries in terms of a management model for biodiversity as well as agreeing upon common agendas at the border level. In other words, actions should be supported by the chancery and be part of the diplomatic agenda in terms of joint commitments between countries.

*Under this perspective, how could efforts be articulated between SERNAP and WWF?*

A relationship already exists between WWF and SERNAP, based on work carried out in different protected areas throughout Bolivia; in the region of Pando it would be necessary to further strengthen this relationship, especially considering that the protected areas border with other countries or are of a departmental nature. Consideration should also be given to contributing to efforts aimed at the consolidation of a protected areas system at the departmental level. Our working relationship with WWF has been very good making it more possible to have a new agenda in the Amazon region.

*What is SERNAP's position regarding the creation and consolidation of the departmental Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve?*



Park guard in Amboró Protected Area

For us this is very good news, even more so with expansion of limits as needed, considering that research carried out indicates that it is a representative area in terms of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Department of Pando, and because it promotes sustainable development models.

## Bolivian Park Guard Day

Bolivian park guards celebrated their “day” on November 8th. More than 50 park guards from the Bolivian Amazon met in Cobija to celebrate the First National Park Guard Meeting.

The meeting financed by WWF and implemented through the NGO Herencia, as part of their support for the Manuripi Reserve, included participants from the protected areas of Manuripi, Pilón Lajas and Madidi, as well as a visit from staff from Tambopata (Peru). The objective of the event was to exchange experiences and knowledge regarding different activities carried out in protected areas in both Bolivia and Peru.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Jhonn Gómez, SERNAP's Executive Director, and called for joining efforts in favour of the conservation of protected areas for the benefit of future generations, and highlighting the key role played by park guards as promoters of sustainable development.



**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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# Finances

## LIVING

### Number of staff members

Fiscal Year 2003    Fiscal Year 2004    Fiscal Year 2005



### Building an effective team

Seeking to strengthen our ever growing team and aiming to increase our productivity and impact upon conservation and sustainable development in Bolivia, a "Team building" workshop was carried out in coordination with the consulting firm Sinapsis.

The success of a team is directly related to the efforts of its individual members and how these individuals relate to each other in a work environment. For this reason the workshop was carried out with the entire staff, including our four offices: Santa Cruz, Puerto Suárez, Trinidad and Cobija.

Continuity to this exercise will be given during 2006 with more specific efforts carried out with the different teams working on WWF Bolivia's different projects.

WWF Bolivia Team



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