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WWFolio Bolivia

For a living planet

Living Editorial

‘Sweet fifteen’

The 1992 Earth Summit marked the birth of a renewed conservation movement that looked to work with authorities, civil society and national and international organizations regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable development with emphasis on protected areas.

This was also a transformation period in which protected areas became functional and operational units and were no longer just "paper parks". It also allowed the creation of new protected areas.

The environmental movement began to grow during this time, as did development, which destroyed more and more remote areas. In spite of the respect that indigenous and ‘mestizo’ communities from – for example – eastern Bolivia have for our natural patrimony, forests keep on being destroyed. Nevertheless, many forested areas that could have easily been felled or been poorly managed, were incorporated into the protected areas system.



The result is that we now have effective management, institutional presence, protection infrastructure, equipment operational funds, trained staff, programmes, research, patrimonial funds, co-management experiences, and even local participation, as well as numerous examples of collective efforts to stand up to powerful development interests.

Bolivia can now say it has a national protected areas system with representative ecosystems and able to conserve its biodiversity. In spite of numerous organizational and administrative weaknesses within the system, it is making

progress and reaching maturity, and, when compared to other systems in Latin America, Bolivia doesn't have very much to envy.

Thus there is much to celebrate after 15 years of a protected area system that has made consistent progress. We would like to also mention that this year the San Matías and Otuquis protected areas turn ten years old. Cheers!

Adolfo Moreno
Conservation Director

Living Pantanal

10th anniversary of Pantanal's protected areas

In celebrating the tenth anniversary (July 31st 1997) of the Pantanal's two protected areas - San Matías and Otuquis, we would like to share information about these unique areas.

San Matías Protected Area

The Natural Integrated Management Area San Matías, referred to in Bolivia as ANMI San Matías, is the second largest protected area in Bolivia with 2.9 million hectares, as well as one of the largest in South America. It is located in the eastern part of the Department of Santa Cruz.

It protects key areas in the upper watershed of the Paraguay River, as well as in the Chiquitano Sunsá mountainous region, covered with Dry Chiquitano Forest, a high habitat in terms of its biodiversity, as well as encompassing an important portion of Pantanal's flooded areas.

The ANMI management category indicates that, aside from its natural attributes, there are also people and communities inhabiting within its boundaries, which are allowed to use its natural resources in sustainable productive activities, such as forest management, fishing, cattle ranching and others.





© WWF / Gustavo YBARRA

▶ Characteristic Pantanal flooded landscape

Otuquis Protected Area

The Otuquis National Park and Natural Integrated Management Area is located in the southeastern part of the Department of Santa Cruz. It has two management categories and aims to harmonize productive activities with the maintenance of the hydro-biological processes that occur in this portion of the Pantanal, internationally acknowledged as “deep Pantanal”, since it is permanently flooded, more than six months out of the year.

A portion of Otuquis Protected Area’s territory is under Natural Integrated Management Area management category, where natural resources are used sustainably. The area of Otuquis that is under National Park management category is uniquely rich in terms of its flora and fauna, and is under a strict and permanent protection. The only activities allowed there are scientific research, ecotourism, environmental education and subsistence use by indigenous communities prior to obtaining a special permit. The use of natural resources and infrastructure development is not allowed within the National Park.

Pantanal ecoregional conservation: Brazil and Bolivia

From a conservation point of view, the ecoregional focus is one of the best working strategies to face the challenges that transcend borders, but it does require a concerted vision and capacity to carry forward effective actions. WWF's ecoregional programme for the Pantanal, implemented by WWF offices in Bolivia and Brazil, is a clear example of transboundary programme management.

Working beyond political borders allows the development of common conservation and development strategies, in benefit of the local population. This is a key issue in regions such as the Pantanal, where hydrological processes sustain the productivity of wide areas in three countries (Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay), and also sustains complex wetland systems such as the Paraguay-Paraná System.

Aware of the value and role of the Pantanal for the continent, WWF has developed a bi-national (Brazil-Bolivia) ecoregional action plan, which includes common conservation objectives, as well as a shared and coordinated communications strategy, aiming to establish synergies and maximizing the results of this programme in benefit of the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland.

An example of some of the ecoregional activities are the translation and publication of technical-scientific information, production and distribution of ecoregional informative material, as well as periodical information exchange, among others.

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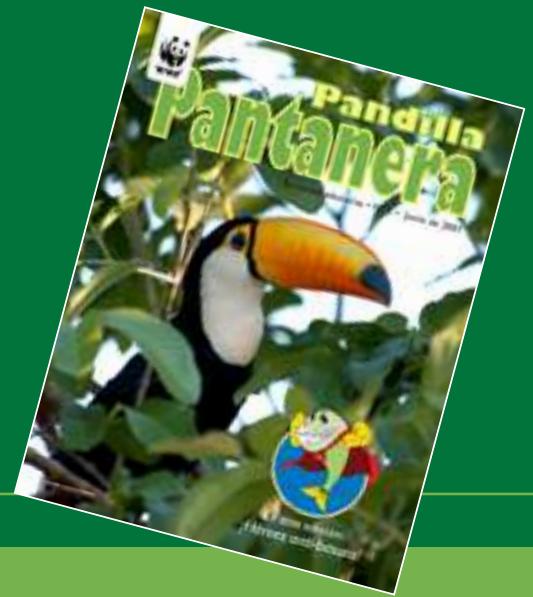
Pantanal Gang Magazine No. 2

The second edition of the Pantanal Gang Magazine is now available, a periodical publication that complements environmental education in Pantanal, specifically the implementation of the regionalized curricula in schools within the municipalities of San Matías and Puerto Quijarro.

The thematic content of this edition deals with a major current environmental problem: garbage, yet at the same time invites readers to re-use, recycle and reduce the amount of garbage they produce, pointing out that garbage negatively impacts our quality of life and puts the wellbeing of present and future generations at risk.

The 2nd edition of Pantanal Gang Magazine includes a full color poster of the Marsh deer (*Blastoceros dichotomus*). We invite the school teachers in the Pantanal to encourage their students in making learning fun with this magazine

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Living Amazon

Productive projects in northern Tiquipaya

In northern Tiquipaya (Department of Cochabamba), the Integrated Center for the Defense of Ecology and Rural Development (Cideder), in coordination with the Municipal Government of Tiquipaya and in collaboration with WWF, is developing activities in support of sustainable economic development:

- *Organic agriculture:* Vegetable production for local consumption, organic honey and hot peppers for sale.
- *Tourism:* As an economic alternative for northern Tiquipaya communities (area in process of establishment as Municipal Wildlife Reserve).

To date, two communities in this Municipality – Totolima and Carmenpampa – are in the process of certifying their honey as organic and have already achieved its certification under the “Honey in Conversion” category, through an evaluation process carried out by the certifying entity IMO Control Latin America – part of the IMO Group located in Switzerland – who has recognized the biological characteristics of the region as ideal for organic honey production.

Through this project, we hope that in 2008, the 28 families that live in both communities have acquired the capacity to adequately manage their apiary for certified organic honey production.



Ciderer has been providing technical support during the past three years through training and practical technical assistance regarding organic apiculture, achieving the creation of the Northern Tiquipaya Beekeepers' Association, as well as the diversification of honey organic products and sub-products: propolis, pollen and royal jelly. We hope this community example turns into a sustainable economic development alternative, harmonizing economic benefits with biodiversity and environmental conservation

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The UDAP Beni turns two years old

On June 10th, the Decentralized Unit for Protected Areas (referred to as UDAP) of the Prefecture of Beni celebrated its two years of functioning. The main activities it focused on during this period were the consolidation of the UDAP and the adequate management of the Iténez Protected Area, which is managed by the aforementioned Prefecture.

WWF strongly supports the UDAP within its Amazon Programme, and we seize this opportunity to congratulate them on their second anniversary.



Counting River Dolphins

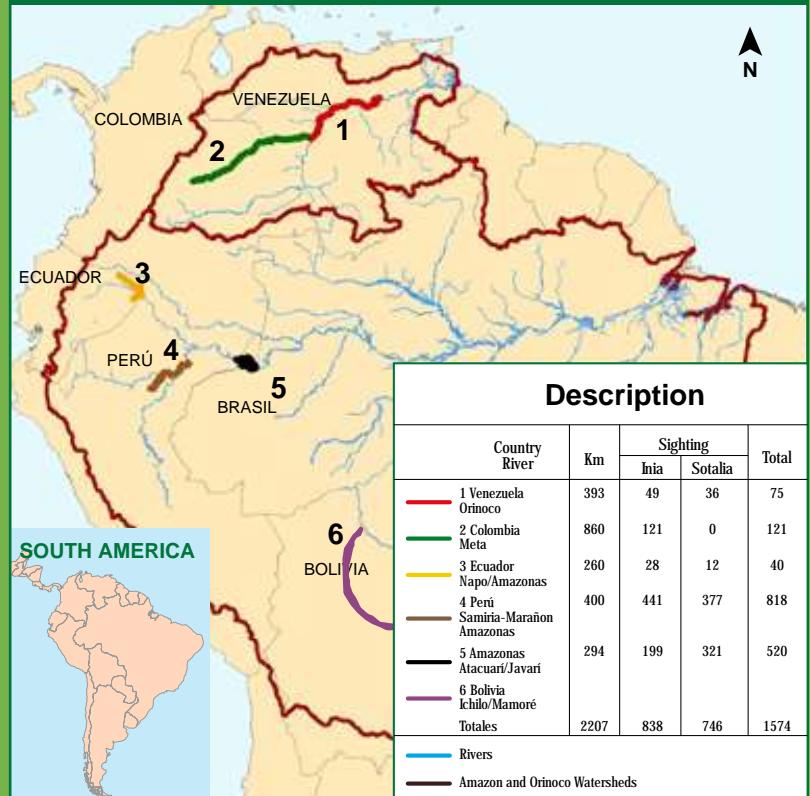
From Colombia to Bolivia

Bolivia hosted a week long trip along the rivers Ichilo (Santa Cruz and Cochabamba) and Mamoré (Beni), as a part of the River Dolphin Monitoring Initiative for South America, a year long joint effort carried out by Omacha Foundation (Colombia), The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) and WWF Colombia in the Amazon and Orinoco watersheds: Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela. In July, in coordination with the Bolivian General Management for Biodiversity, Faunagua and WWF Bolivia, the Itenez River (Beni, Bolivia) will be the last leg of this continental monitoring effort.

In Venezuela (June, 2006) the results of the expedition observed 270 Dolphins, while in Ecuador (July, 2006) 40 were sighted. The results for Colombia (August, 2006) reported 131 River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*); in Peru (September 2006) 818 were reported for both River dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*) and Tucuxi (*Sotalia fluviatilis*). During the 240 km trip along the Amazonas, Atacuarí and Javará rivers, between Colombia, Brazil and Peru (February, 2007), the group of scientists from Omacha Foundation spotted 520 Dolphins and expressed that the results obtained from previous expeditions indicate that the population of Dolphin in the Amazon River is healthier versus the one in the Orinoco River.

In spite of healthy population, the census along the Amazon River did expose the serious threats that directly affect this ecosystem. The drastic deforestation process caused by illegal logging and burning, as well as infrastructure development projects, added to contamination and climate change, are rapidly destroying the most important extension of natural forest in the world.

River dolphin census in South America



River dolphins, referred to in Bolivia as ‘Bufeos’, are one of the most threatened aquatic mammals worldwide, mainly because of the negative interaction with fishing and deterioration of their habitat caused by the construction of hydroelectric plants, mercury and hydrocarbon pollution, as well as large scale deforestation – all of which directly affect the presence and distribution of fish (which the River dolphin depend on as their food source). The conservation status of River dolphins is therefore also an indicator of the conservation status of the regions themselves where they inhabit, which are rich in biodiversity and of great importance for maintaining a global ecological balance.

According to Mr. Saulo Usma, Freshwater Programme Coordinator for WWF Colombia, “the conclusion of the census in Bolivia generates great expectations since there is also a different species, *Inia boliviensis*, and this will be the first opportunity for studying the species”. “With the census in Bolivia we will have concrete results regarding the status of the River dolphin populations in the Orinoco and Amazon watersheds and, most importantly, we will consolidate the

necessary information in order to implement a conservation strategy for this emblematic species”.

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Getting to know the *Inia boliviensis*

River dolphins were discovered by the French researcher Alcides D’Orbigny in 1832, during his last trip to South America when he traveled along the Iténez River (Beni). At that time, D’Orbigny named this Dolphin *Inia boliviensis*, species that later on was given the name *Inia geoffrensis*.

The Pink dolphin or Bufeo is the largest freshwater Dolphin in the world. It can reach up to 2.8 m long and weigh 180 kg. In Latin America, this species is widely distributed in the Amazon and Orinoco watersheds (Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru). In Bolivia, it is found in Amazon Watershed rivers in the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni and Pando.





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▶ Fishing

The rocky irregularities – known as ‘cachuelas’ – along the Madeira River – only a few kilometers from where the Mamoré River meets the Beni River – have isolated the Bufeo in Bolivia, making its evolution as a species different from *Inia geoffrensis* possible: the *Inia boliviensis*. Scientists have found that this Bolivian species has more teeth, a larger body and a smaller skull, compared to *Inia geoffrensis*.

Thus, currently there are two identified Pink dolphin species: *Inia boliviensis* and *Inia geoffrensis*. This latter has two sub-species: *Inia geoffrensis geoffrensis* in the Amazon and *Inia geoffrensis humboldtiana* in the Orinoquia.

The *Inia boliviensis* is an endemic species of the Upper Madeira River Watershed, mainly found in Bolivia (Madeira is the river that conducts the Bolivian waters to the Amazon). This species is very showy and has potential for becoming an emblematic species for the region, as a tourism and conservation ambassador.

OUR PARTNERS

Faunagua

Faunagua Association started in 2004 as a social, non profit NGO made up of a group of volunteer professionals. It executes research projects for conservation and hydro-biological resources management as well as Bolivian wetland projects, bio-commerce projects and community tourism.

Faunagua’s mission is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable use of the hydro-biological and fishing resources by indigenous and peasant communities, as well as by local organizations, empowering and strengthening actors through:

- generation of technical information and learning through participatory research processes
- transfer of information gathered and training of actors
- strengthening and support to public actors, aiming at influencing the development of adequate public policies
- creation and consolidation of interaction mechanisms between actors involved in hydro-biological and fishing resources management support to local development productive processes

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Living Forests

“Un Árbol (One Tree) Bolivia” continues generating benefits

The “Un Árbol Bolivia” awareness campaign took place between December 2005 and April 2007 and consisted in the felling and cutting into pieces of a *Cariniana estrellensis* tree, and its subsequent transformation into 210 pieces of art by 62 national artists.

This WWF Bolivia campaign, integrating culture, art and the wood industry in favor of forest conservation, focused on raising the general population’s awareness and emphasizing how our buying decisions can contribute to conservation when we request, as consumers, that wood products come from forests under management and/or FSC certification. Un Árbol (One Tree) Bolivia successfully came to a close after the art work was exhibited and sold during the 2007 Expoforest, generating US\$ 1,669, kindly donated by the participating artists and those who bought the pieces.

Last June, WWF, on behalf of the artists and buyers, donated this money to the Bolivian Red Cross in Santa Cruz, who, under its humanitarian aid programme, will use this donation to help the local population in the Obispo Santiestevan Province (Northern Santa Cruz) affected earlier in the year by El Niño and the subsequent flooding caused by this phenomenon. Specifically, the funds will be used to buy food and hygiene kits.



The impressive 30 m high *Cariniana estrellensis* tree was also able to commit the participation of artists and the general public during the I International Sculptors' Workshop held last October and from there went on to produce 210 beautiful pieces of art for the 2007 Expoforest.

Also, in September, WWF will publish the *Un Árbol Bolivia* book, which will systematize this experience as well as depict each piece of art in an impressive format. This publication is possible due to the generous support offered by the Rural Electrification Cooperative (CRE) and Mercantil Santa Cruz Bank. A number of the books will be donated to Manzana 1 Art Space, and the funds raised from its sale will go to help organize the II International Certified Wood Sculptors' Workshop in 2008.

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Commercial alliances between rural communities and forest companies

Market links for communities to access fair prices

Last June, WWF Bolivia and the Bolivian Forestry Chamber organized the international workshop entitled "Latin American Experiences on Commercial Alliances between Rural Communities and Forest Companies", with support from the British Department for International Development (DfID).

Representatives from communities in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia met in Santa Cruz to obtain a first hand perspective on the experiences of other Latin American countries regarding this type of alliance, as well as to exchange lessons learned that could be useful for the new Bolivian practices.

In Bolivia, important alliances between forest companies and rural communities have already taken place: Zapocó Indigenous Communal Land (referred to as TCO) and the Los Petunos company, Monteverde - community with INPA



© WWF / Bolivia

► Some of the workshop's participants

Parquet and Mardivar companies, and Cururú community with Cimal IMR company. In these cases, benefits are mutual, since the companies need to increase their supply volumes with quality raw material for external markets, and the indigenous communities obtain access to fair forest trade through these alliances, and are therefore recognized for their sound forest management.

These alliances, are also being reinforced by public and transparent bidding processes, enabling the community forest companies to access fair prices and taking social aspects into consideration; real commercial alliances with social commitment.

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Zapocó Indigenous Communal Land towards an alliance with social commitment

The Zapocó Community Based Forest Enterprise (Efciz) signed letter of intention with Los Petunos company

Since 2001, the Zapocó Indigenous Communal Land (TCO) has been permanently working on sustainable forest management, with sporadic commercial relations with private companies occurring mainly during the extraction phase.

Since 2004, lead by the NGO Apcob (Support to the Indigenous-Peasant of Eastern Bolivia), in collaboration with WWF, efforts have been developed to strengthen local capacities in forest management, especially in organizational and business management aspects, since these have been identified as weaknesses in an evaluation carried out by WWF covering socio-organizational, technical, commercial and environmental aspects. These actions are possible thanks to the support of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through WWF Sweden.

In 2006, after a year of training in aspects related to reduced impact logging, accumulation of working capital and progressing along the productive chain, Zapoco managed to sell wood with an added value, in other words felled and bucked trees (in the past, trees were sold standing with no added value). Currently, 19 forest species are being extracted, five of which are valuable species, among them: *Tabebuia* sp., *Amburana cearensis*, *Machaerium seleroxylon*, *Ormosia nobilis* and *Cedrela fissilis*.



This year, the Zapocó TCO, with the advice from Apcob and WWF, decided to sell its wood through a public bidding process for a period of five years, in order to ensure the fulfillment of the contract and urging the buying companies to assume social commitments with the community.

As a result of this process, “Los Petunos SRL was awarded the contract for the buying and selling of felled and topped logs”, informed Mr. Pedro Charupas, representative of Efciz. Through this contract, Zapocó commits to selling, during 2007, approximately 6500 m³ of various species of wood (*Anadenanthera colubrina*, *Copaifera chodatiana*, *Tabebuia* sp., *Astronium urundeuva*, *Centrolobium microchaete*, among others). Initially, an “Intention of Alliance” has been signed, which designated a one year probation period for the business relationship community-company, which will then become formal through a “Commercial Alliance with Social Commitment”. In addition, the wood prices are subject to an annual review once the “Intention of Alliance” community-company is formalized.

It is worth mentioning that this process has allowed for the wood sales price to gradually increase from US\$ 8 /m³ in 2001, to US\$ 22.3 /m³ in 2006, and to US\$ 25.6/m³ in 2007.

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▶ Community kids

The highlights during the bidding process were:

- Conformation of three evaluation committees made up of community members based on their knowledge regarding forestry, social and economic issues.
- The presence of the Forestry Superintendence and Bolivian Forestry Chamber during the bidding process.
- Presence of a notary public to ensure the bidding process was legal.

Business roundtable and access to responsible forest markets

WWF Bolivia's Forest and Trade Network (FTN), along with various participating companies, took part in Construmat – the largest construction fair in Spain and the second largest in Europe – and venue for a business roundtable facilitated by WWF Spain in collaboration with the Bolivia FTN.

The roundtable was able to gather representatives from the forestry sector from 76 companies representing 13 countries (from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia) who were interested in FSC certified products. The event also allowed to promote the use of FSC certified wood among construction companies and verify that the responsible purchase of wood is becoming real within the corporate responsibility policies for these companies, which in this way allows them to contribute to the conservation of forests.

The Bolivian businessmen who participated in the event acknowledged the preferential demand for forest products coming from legal and sustainable harvesting, where the social and environmental values of the forests are respected.

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The companies that participate in the Bolivia FTN are: La Chonta Woods, SumaPacha, Ecolegno, Jolyka, Mabet, Multiagro, Anatina Toys, Guasase Brothers Workshop and Bolivia Handicraft Workshop.



From left to right: Spain's Environment Minister, WWF Bolivia's Country Representative, Construmat Fair's President and Representative of Santa Cruz Municipality

Launching of the Bolivian FTN

Member of WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN)

The Bolivia Forest and Trade Network (FTN) was officially launched in April in the world's capital for forest certification, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, as an initiative of WWF Bolivia. The goal is to link the Bolivian FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified supply, or in process of certification, with the responsible demand of international participant companies from one of the 30 Forest and Trade Networks (FTNs) worldwide.

"We embrace the GFTN as a unique initiative for Bolivia, which promotes the responsible trade of forest products by increasing the demand of wood coming from certified forest operations, thus guaranteeing the forests' sustainability", said Mr. Pablo Rabczuk, Vice Minister for Trade and Export in Bolivia, during the launching event.

The first steps of this Bolivian initiative occurred during the 2007 Expoforest exhibit and trade fair, where the First Commercial Buyers' Mission took place, jointly organized by WWF and the FTN, together with the Bolivian Forestry Chamber. FTN members from Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and China participated.

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The goal of the Bolivia FTN is to encourage responsible forest trade and thus contribute to the conservation and sustainable development of Bolivia's forests.



Santa Cruz Municipality at the forefront of forest conservation

The Municipality approved its Responsible Purchase Policy for forest products

The Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, led by the Mayor, Mr. Percy Fernández, approved the Administrative Resolution No. 190/2007 in July, in which it establishes a Responsible Purchase Policy (RPP) for forest products, aiming at promoting the acquisition, on behalf of the Municipal government, of forest products coming from legal, under management and/or certified sources, in order to contribute to forest conservation in Santa Cruz and Bolivia.

This Resolution follows an inter-institutional cooperation agreement approved on May 30th, between the Municipality

and WWF Bolivia, which, besides the RPP, also included the self-proclamation of the Municipality as the World Capital of Certified Tropical Forests and the celebration of these commitments through the creation of the upcoming forest certification walkway in the city.

In order to implement the RPP, WWF will support the Municipality in the development, design, dissemination and monitoring of an action plan which will establish a methodology to monitor the accomplishments for the implementation and compliance of the RPP. Workshops will also be held in July and August, in order to socialize the RPP within Municipality. Further details on this initiative will be provided in the next edition of the WWFolio.

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More Life

Everything is ready for 2007 Fenavid

The Audiovisual Foundation (Fundav) is organizing the 7th version of the International Video Festival (Fenavid) 2007, to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra from September 2nd to 7th, and that will be the stage for gathering and projecting the best short movies produced by college and film school students in Bolivia and abroad, as well as promoting the sharing of audiovisual production experiences. The participating videos will be received until August 1st.

As in previous years, the participation of representatives from Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile and Mexico is expected.

This version of the Festival will include activities such as:

- video exhibits: fiction documentary, animation, video clip and art video
- international teachers meeting
- Santa Cruz 100x100 project: elaboration of short movies by groups of students, in 100 hours

WWF supports Bolivian audiovisual production as a means to promote awareness and education towards sustainable development and conservation of the natural resources. Thus, in previous versions of Fenavid, WWF has given an award to the best video in the environmental category and hopes in this way that students will give this topic priority in their video productions.

For further information: fenavidinternacional@gmail.com



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Living Finances

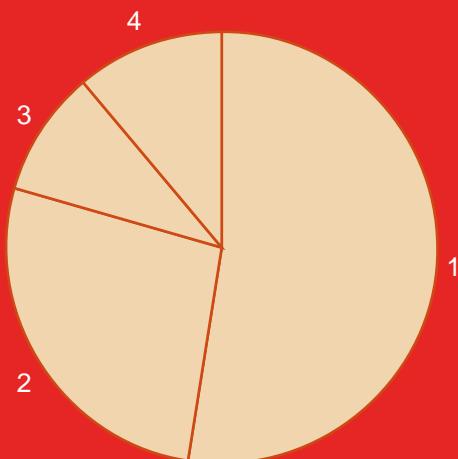
Funding executed by WWF Bolivia

– by programme

In US\$

July 2006 – June 2007

1 Amazon Programme	1.630.973	52%
2 Forest Programme	840.471	27%
3 Pantanal Programme	299.733	10%
4 Institucional activities	342.982	11%
Total executed:	3.114.159	100%

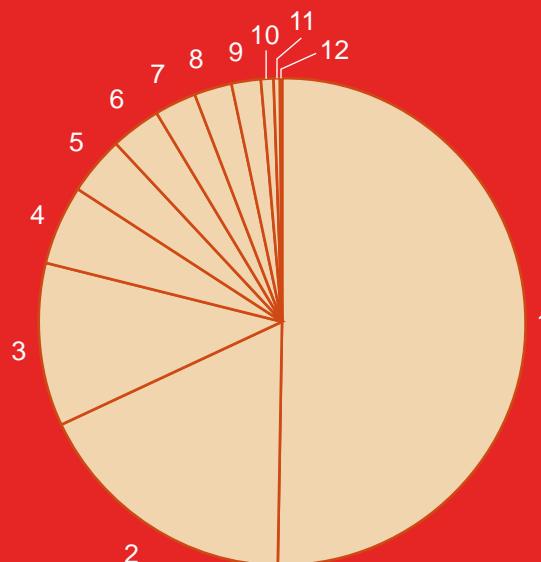


Funding executed by WWF Bolivia

– by donor

In US\$ / July 2006 – June 2007

1 Moore Foundation	1.567.059	50%
2 SIDA / WWF Sweden	550.448	18%
3 WWF International	338.167	11%
4 DGIS / WWF Netherlands	168.587	5%
5 IFC / World Bank	121.253	4%
6 WWF Netherlands	100.127	3%
7 DfID / WWF UK	90.266	3%
8 WWF Switzerland	72.794	2%
9 Royal Embassy of the Netherlands	60.419	2%
10 SNV / WWF International	24.505	1%
11 WWF USA	17.590	1%
12 Flemish Government	2.944	0%
Total executed:	3.114.159	100%



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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
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.



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