



# WWF CONSERVATION PULSE AUGUST 2015

Thank you for the warm response to the first (July) edition of *Conservation Pulse* – WWF’s monthly communiqué for sharing recent achievements that contribute to our global goals. Thanks are also due for your contributions to *Pulse* – please keep them coming! The scale of achievement presented in these first two editions is humbling and inspiring, showing what is possible when WWF teams work together and with others. Featured below are two hugely important policy successes – the first ever UN General Assembly resolution on the illegal wildlife trade and finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – as well as progress ‘on the ground’. We hope you enjoy this August edition and share it widely.

*Deon Nel, Acting Executive Director, Conservation  
Suds Sarronwala, Executive Director, Communications and Marketing*

## WWF and UN score two major policy successes

WWF has played a key role in two major conservation policy successes: the first ever UN General Assembly resolution tackling the illegal wildlife trade, and a commitment by UN countries to a 15-year sustainable development agenda influencing global development priorities, funding flows and outcomes, to be endorsed in September. The illegal wildlife trade resolution incorporated all WWF’s main asks, including focus along the length of the trade chain, and was agreed by 193 countries. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), developed since Rio+20 in 2012, cover biodiversity, water, oceans, climate, energy, sustainable production and consumption, sustainable cities, food, governance and partnerships. Other goals on economics, poverty, gender, health and transparency now contain environmental provisions. There is significant and deliberate overlap with the new WWF programme. This new business plan for the planet is open for investment.



UNITED NATIONS WEBCAST: WEBTV/UN.ORG

[MORE INFO](#)

## Demand for protection of EU nature legislation

More than half a million people have called on the European Commission (EC) to save Europe’s nature laws – by far the largest response to a public consultation in the history of the European Union (EU). In May, environmental organizations including WWF launched the Nature Alert e-action campaign in response to the EC’s ongoing ‘fitness check’ of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, which could undermine decades of European conservation. The campaign called for keeping and improving the implementation of laws which protect over 1,000 key species and 27,000 sites. The EU hosts the world’s largest network of protected areas, Natura 2000, covering almost a fifth of the land area; when implemented effectively, the laws protect key species and habitats while ensuring sustainable development. Despite successful e-action, a revision may still be attempted and the campaign will continue. Follow it at [www.wwf.eu/keepnaturealive](http://www.wwf.eu/keepnaturealive)



WWF NATUREALERT

[MORE INFO](#)

## Tigers are roaring back in several countries

The first national survey of Bhutan's tiger population has counted 103 tigers in the Himalayan country – a significant increase on the previous estimate of 75. This news follows similarly positive figures from other 2015 tiger censuses: Russia's Amur tigers now stand at 540, an increase of about 100 since 2005, while India's have risen from 1,706 in 2010 to 2,226 today. Meanwhile, the first systematic survey in Bangladesh found 106 tigers; previous higher figures may have been overestimates. WWF works with all tiger range states and is pushing for counts in all countries as a key component of the global Tx2 campaign to double wild tiger numbers by 2022. Malaysia, where experts fear tiger numbers may have dropped as low as 250, is planning a survey and other tiger range countries are urged to follow suit.



DAVID JAMSON / WWF-UK

[MORE INFO](#)

## Boost for marine conservation in Coral Triangle

A new 277,000-hectare locally managed marine protected area (MPA) declared by the Indonesian government will help secure both marine biodiversity and the livelihoods and food security of coastal communities in a priority area of the famed Coral Triangle – the world's richest marine area, home to over three-quarters of all coral species and a regional focus of WWF's global ocean campaign. A world-class diving site, rich in fish and cetacean species, the Pantar Strait and Surrounding Oceans MPA lies in the Alor Archipelago in East Nusa Tenggara. A year-round nutrient upwelling supports some of the region's most important fisheries. WWF has worked for almost 10 years with the authorities and local communities to stop overfishing and destructive fishing practices, while also pressing for the MPA to be created.



WWF-INDONESIA

[MORE INFO](#)

## Driftnet fishing banned in Russia's EEZ

Russia has passed legislation banning driftnets in the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) – a damaging fishing practice used mostly by domestic and Japanese fishermen. Set to catch sockeye salmon, driftnets up to 30 kilometres long have a major impact on marine ecosystems, killing huge numbers of seabirds, marine mammals and non-target fish. Damage to the fishery is estimated at up to 10 billion roubles (approximately €161 million) a year, and more than 1.2 million seabirds and 15,000 marine mammals were killed annually in the period 1993–1999 when independent records were kept. The use of driftnets is banned worldwide on the high seas and in the EEZs of all other North Pacific fishing nations; Russia's ban comes into force in January 2016. WWF has worked to minimize the impact of driftnets for over a decade.



WWF-RUSSIA

[MORE INFO](#)

## Scaling up in the Western Indian Ocean

The 10 governments bordering the northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) have endorsed integrated ocean management of this high conservation-priority area – also home to 10 million people. The NMC is rich in natural assets and supports important fisheries and ecotourism – key to the livelihoods and food security of coastal communities – but faces threats from oil and gas exploration, illegal and excessive fishing and destructive development. The recent meeting of the Nairobi Convention called on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other partners to help implement a sustainable Blue Economy approach, capping two years of effort by WWF and partners to conceive a joint vision, embed it in national strategies and build a partnership approach with all stakeholders.



WWF-US / JAMES MORGAN

[MORE INFO](#)



### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[panda.org](http://panda.org)