WWF REPORT JULY 2015

WWF CONSERVATION PULSE

JULY 2015

A new monthly communiqué to share recent conservation achievements – especially those contributing to the Global Goals and Drivers of WWF's new Global Conservation Programme. It shows what can be achieved when we work together and focus on successes that can be replicated at scale – and help fulfil our mission to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which people live in harmony with nature. A timely example is the UN General Assembly resolution, agreed on 31 July, tackling illegal wildlife trade – long campaigned for by many WWF offices working together – which will be featured in the next *Pulse*. We encourage you to share this *Conservation Pulse* widely.

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

WWF partners with AfDB for sustainable future

In partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), WWF has produced a report outlining how Africa can develop sustainably without undermining the natural resource base on which all development depends. The *African Ecological Futures* report was launched in May during the AfDB annual meeting, which celebrated the Bank's 50th anniversary. WWF also took this opportunity to present the retiring AfDB President, Donald Kaberuka, with a Leaders for a Living Planet award recognizing his leadership on environmental sustainability and his efforts to address the urgent threat of wildlife crime. WWF will work closely with the AfDB to incorporate the solutions explored in the report into development planning across Africa, especially in priority WWF areas and sectors such as infrastructure expansion and climate change impacts and adaptation.

NASHIPAE ORUMOY / WWF-KENYA

MORE INFO

International effort targets illegal wildlife trade

The largest ever international law enforcement operation against wildlife crime resulted in the detention of 300 suspected poachers and traffickers, including some usually untouchable kingpins. Counted a huge success, Operation COBRA III was coordinated across 62 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and America in May, supported by international agencies including INTERPOL. Among the 600 illegal shipments seized around the globe were 12 tonnes of ivory and 119 rhino horns, along with 10,000 dead seahorses and 400 live turtles and tortoises in the United Kingdom alone. The current surge in wildlife crime threatens not just species, but national security and sustainable development. The scale of COBRA III underlines the growing political will to tackle this crisis – a shift in attitudes that WWF helped generate through its joint illegal wildlife trade campaign with TRAFFIC.

WWF / JAMES MORGAN

MORE INFO

Securing the world's largest tropical wetland

The governments of Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay have made a joint commitment to the conservation and sustainable development of the shared Pantanal ecosystem, an area of 20 million hectares and the world's largest tropical wetland. Noting the current development activities that negatively impact the Pantanal ecosystem as well as social and economic stability, representatives of the three governments, supported by WWF, made the announcement at the conference of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Uruguay in June. Damaging activities include deforestation in the catchment area, unsustainable soy and beef production and damming of waterways for hydropower. The Pantanal is a WWF priority for its role in providing water for human, agricultural and ecosystem services, for navigation, fishing and the maintenance of biodiversity.

DENIS LANDENBERGUE / WWF INTERNATIONAL

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Australia on probation for Great Barrier Reef

July marked a high point in the fight to protect the Great Barrier Reef, which saw WWF's signature campaign for the Reef secure a World Heritage Committee decision that puts the Australian government on probation until the health of the Reef improves. The Australian government must deliver "effective and sustained" protection of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Site – and report on progress within 18 months. The campaign profiled the declining health of the reef, and mobilized more than 500,000 signatures calling for a ban on the dumping of dredged seabed spoil within the World Heritage Site area. As well as the mammoth, multi-lingual petition, campaign tactics included a smart-phone-accessible virtual reality tour of the Reef, an innovative "claim your piece of the Reef" website, a global poll and WWF's most successful facebook post.

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Pope Francis argues for acting on climate change

The papal encyclical linking poverty, overconsumption and environmental destruction is an unprecedented call to the world to prevent growing inequality and catastrophic climate change. *Laudato Sii*, or *Praise be: On the care of our common home*, released in June, is a letter to the 5,000 Catholic bishops and 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide. It is expected to have a major impact on public opinion in a year when the Pope will meet US President Obama, address US Congress and later address the UN General Assembly on the new Sustainable Development Goals and 15-year plans to tackle hunger, extreme poverty, health and environment issues, ahead of the end-of-year climate summit in Paris. Responding to the encyclical, WWF International President Yolanda Kakabadse said Pope Francis' message adds a much needed moral approach to the climate debate. WWF began working with the world's faiths in Assisi, Italy, in 1986 to mark its 25th anniversary.

EUROPEAN UNION 2014 - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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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.

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