



WWF®

*for a living planet*®



## Conservation highlights

Recent WWF achievements in protecting biodiversity and reducing humanity's footprint  
in priority areas of the new global conservation programme

November 2009 - May 2010

# Biodiversity: WWF Priority Places and Species

## Borneo's New World

**WWF's biodiversity meta-goal is to ensure the integrity of the most outstanding natural places on Earth. This includes the protection of biodiversity in high conservation priority areas, and restoring populations of those species with the highest ecological, economic and cultural value.**



© WWF / Stefan Hertwig

Scientists have discovered new species at a rate of three a month in the three years since the Heart of Borneo conservation declaration in February 2007 by the three governments – Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia – which share the world's third largest island. A new WWF report records more than 123 species new to science, including the world's longest insect – a 56cm stick insect from the rainforest canopy – and 37 new orchid species. Launched on Earth Day, 22 April, the report draws attention to this irreplaceable natural treasure – home to 10 species of primate, more than 350 bird, 150 reptile and amphibian and a staggering 10,000 plant species. The steady discovery of new forms of life more than justifies the commitment by the three governments to conserve the 22 million ha of the Heart of Borneo and WWF is supporting these efforts to make the declaration a reality, especially through sustainable financing sources such as payments for ecosystem services and forest carbon financing mechanisms.

## Progress in the Amazon



© Diego M. Garcés / WWF-Cannon

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by IUCN, WWF, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat and REDPARQUES – the technical cooperation network for protected areas in Latin America – supporting the Amazon countries' drive for a joint conservation vision for the world's largest remaining and most intact rainforest. With unparalleled aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, the Amazon plays a key role in global climate stability and provides hugely important ecological services. Progress on the Pan-Amazon protected areas initiative, one of the goals of WWF's Amazon Initiative, will be reported at the CBD Summit in Japan in 2010.

The Colombian Government announced the creation of a one million ha protected area in the Colombian Amazon along the Apaporis River – a priority region for the Amazon Initiative, strongly supported by local indigenous communities.

## Protected Areas for a Living Planet



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Significant progress is being achieved by WWF's Protected Areas for a Living Planet Programme, promoting the protected area (PA) targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in five ecoregions – Altai Sayan, Carpathians, Caucasus, Dinaric Arc and West Africa Marine – stretching across 27 countries and funded by the MAVA Foundation. Building relations with governments, donors and other partners in all countries is a solid basis to develop fully-representative, well-managed and funded PA networks. The initiative involves the creation of a dozen PAs covering 1,5 million hectares (ha), which is achieving a multiplication effect with the partner governments of the region creating a total of more than 50 new PAs in 2009 covering almost 93 million ha – an area the size of Hungary. Since 2007 the project raised CHF21 million in co-financing, established three new training colleges, and trained hundreds of government staff. Gap analyses have been completed for Russia, Mongolia and the Dinaric Arc, which are identifying priority areas for future PAs.

## Tiger Initiative



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WWF launched a communication campaign on the severe plight of tigers, using the start of the Chinese Year of the Tiger on 14 February to focus public attention and build political will. Throughout the Network – in tiger range states and donor countries – activities are focusing on the continued loss of tigers, down to 3,200 and still falling. And at the political level, a ministerial conference on tiger conservation in Hua Hin, Thailand, approved a groundbreaking Declaration on Tiger Conservation. This adopted WWF's target to double wild tiger numbers by the next Year of the Tiger in 2022, and committed tiger range state governments to improve protection for tigers and prey, expand protected area networks, transborder cooperation and a halt to the illegal trade in tiger parts. National commitments are being prepared for the Tiger Summit in Russia in September, where the aim is to launch the world's first range-wide tiger conservation plan.

### Summary

#### Hua Hin Declaration on Tiger Conservation First Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation January 29th, 2010 Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Thailand

We, the conservation leaders of sovereign tiger range countries, commit to a shared goal of reversing the declining trend in tiger numbers and strive to increase the occupancy and numbers of the remaining wild tigers within each country, and jointly strive to double globally the occupancy and number of the remaining wild tigers by the year 2022.

Furthermore, to accomplish this goal, we collectively pledge through national actions and regional cooperation, to initiate the following transformational actions immediately:

- Make the critical tiger habitats and existing tiger source populations as true sanctuaries for tigers, and be inviolate from economic development.
- Subject buffer zones and corridors that connect the critical tiger habitats and existing tiger source populations to zoning that ensures they will remain functional landscape components that facilitate tiger survival and conservation
- Not support nor finance development projects that adversely affect critical tiger habitats and existing source populations
- Protect wild tigers and their prey base from poaching, and critical tiger habitats from encroachment, through smart patrolling, trans-boundary coordination, and elimination of international trade of tigers, tiger parts, and derivatives through effective laws and their enforcement, at national and international levels
- Conduct focused outreach to target audiences to reduce demand for tiger parts and enhance demand for live tigers living in the wild
- Implement scientific systems of monitoring the status of tigers and their prey across all range states and professionalize and improve management practices
- Encourage communities living in and around tiger landscapes with sustainable livelihood support and appropriate technologies to minimize human-tiger conflict
- Explore and mobilize domestic funding, including new financing mechanisms based on forest carbon financing, payment for ecosystem services (PES), ecotourism, and private sector, donor, and NGO partnerships
- Appeal for the commitment of international financial institutions, such as World Bank, GEF, ADB, bilateral and other donors and foundations, CITES Secretariat, NGOs, and other conservation partners to provide or mobilize financial and/or technical support to tiger conservation
- Invite the international community to launch a multi-donor trust fund or other flexible arrangements to be functional before the Tiger Summit to support global tiger conservation
- Undertake to review and update our national tiger conservation strategies to reflect the undertakings above to be ready for presentation at the pre-Summit partners' dialogue in June 2010
- Intensify the trans-border cooperation on wildlife law enforcement for tiger conservation
- Implement plans for trans-border tiger landscapes
- Acknowledge with appreciation and welcome the invitation of the Russian Federation to host the Tiger Summit of heads of governments and global partners in Vladivostok in September 2010.

*As we save wild tigers, we will save Asian biodiversity. It is our responsibility to future generations as they inherit the planet.*

## The Greening of the Danube



© Mario Romuleo / www.romuleo.com

A decade after four governments agreed to work together to establish a “green corridor” along the entire length of the Lower Danube River, Europe’s most ambitious wetland protection and restoration programme is well ahead of targets for creating protected areas (PAs).

The four governments – Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine – pledged to boost protection in 775,000 hectares (ha) of existing PAs, and add a further 160,000 ha along the river’s final 1,000 km. Ten years on and 1.4 million ha has been brought under protection, benefiting outstanding wildlife, and enhancing water security, flood control, and recreational and tourism livelihood opportunities for the region’s 29 million people. Behind target is wetlands restoration, as only a quarter of the target 220,000 ha of former wetlands has been restored.

The Lower Danube is one of the last free-flowing river stretches in Europe, and one of the aims of the green corridor declaration in 1999 was to maintain connectivity and the river’s ecological health.

## New Protected Areas in Cameroon



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

The government of Cameroon recently signed a decree creating the 58,178 hectare Mount Cameroon National Park, which includes the 4,095-metre high Mount Cameroon. The new park will help protect some of the rarest ecosystems in the Congo Basin. Mt. Cameroon is home to many species found nowhere else, including a very isolated population of forest elephant. The new park will also improve the livelihoods of 300,000 people living near the park, which provides them with large amounts of non-timber forest products, protects their water supplies and shelters sacred sites.

Cameroon has also declared its portion of Lake Chad – Africa’s fourth largest lake – as a Ramsar wetland of international significance fulfilling a commitment made a decade ago by the four countries sharing the lake. The declaration of this new 2.6 million ha internationally-protected wetland makes this the world’s largest transboundary Ramsar wetland.

## World’s First High Seas Marine Protected Areas



© Anaf Fazio / FVSA

Coinciding with the Year of Biodiversity, the Argentine government, together with Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina (FVSA)-WWF plan to announce the designation of a network of five new marine protected areas, covering at least 1 million hectares of Patagonian Sea. The network is designed to protect feeding grounds of seabirds and cetaceans – especially the southern right whale – cold water corals and deep-sea sponges, in the face of dwindling fish stocks, climate change and other threats. The announcement follows many years of support from FVSA-WWF for marine conservation in Argentina, including the creation of Argentina’s first coastal-marine National Park, Monte León in 2004. This new announcement is part of FVSA-WWF’s Blue Corridor Campaign, a combined initiative with the Argentine National Parks Department and with the support of key global industry heads, for ecosystem-based management to secure a vast tract of ocean extending from the Patagonian south-west Atlantic to the Southern Ocean.

# People

## New WWF International President



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Prominent campaigner and former Environment Minister in Ecuador, Ms Yolanda Kakabadse takes over from Chief Emeka Anyaoku who served two terms as WWF International President. Ms Kakabadse feels strongly about the importance of conservation and sustainable environmental management, as a key political and social issue. Richly experienced in diplomacy, mediation and international governance, she is known for resolving environmental and other conflicts between different sectors of society, and has been an environmental champion since founding the Ecuadorian NGO Fundación Natura. Ms Kakabadse has also been president of IUCN, WWF's sister organisation, and brings to WWF a passion for the environment, and a vision for the WWF network as a bridge to bring people and nature closer.

## Chinese Environmentalist Honoured by WWF



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Freshwater ecologist and visionary environmentalist Chen Yiyu has been awarded the 2009 WWF Duke of Edinburgh Conservation medal. WWF's most prestigious award highlights Mr Chen's lifelong devotion to conserving China's freshwater resources, and his role in helping advance river basin management and establish the Yangtze Forum, bringing together key stakeholders to implement policies to secure the environmental integrity of this key river. He is considered a leading figure in sustainable development and on-the-ground conservation. "Thanks to Mr Chen's leadership, China's freshwater conservation policies have improved dramatically, particularly in the areas of integrated watershed and ecosystem management," said WWF International Director General Jim Leape. "The contributions Chen Yiyu continues to make to freshwater conservation in China are outstanding and deserve to be celebrated".

## Taking a Lead on Reforming Fisheries Subsidies



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Fisheries worldwide are in a perilous state, the result of overfishing, and poor fisheries practices, exacerbated by government subsidies to national fishing fleets that encourage overfishing. Ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmés, Permanent representative of the Government of Uruguay to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), has made a truly substantive contribution to reforming the economics of unsustainable fishing and improving the multilateral trading system, and is being recognised by WWF with a Leader for a Living Planet award. As Chair of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules 2004-2010, Ambassador Vallés showed leadership and innovation in advancing trade rules that contribute to the responsible management of marine resources by combating inappropriate subsidies to the world's fishing fleets. Ambassador Vallés has been dedicated to the achievement of an environmentally responsible trading system, with trade rules that prioritise sustainability and equitable development.

**Perhaps WWF's greatest strength is its people, the staff and officers who together strive for a living planet, and wherever possible we should recognise this priceless asset. Similarly, the recognition of the leaders and champions who are playing key roles outside WWF to achieve conservation success and sustainable development is a powerful opportunity to promote conservation. By highlighting these champions for the environment, WWF recognises their contribution, empowering, encouraging and building links, profiling conservation success and, above all, showing what can be achieved and inspiring others to take up the challenge to secure a living planet.**

# Footprint

## Coral Triangle Business Summit

WWF's second meta-goal is to reduce humankind's Ecological Footprint so that we live within the renewable resource limits of our planet. This builds on strong foundations and targets humanity's carbon, commodity and water footprints which have the greatest impact on biodiversity.

WWF's work on transforming markets focuses on the production of key commodities including palm oil, soy, tuna, timber, whitefish, pulp and paper, farmed salmon and shrimp, that impact our priority species and places, and contribute substantially to humanity's footprint.

By working with companies along commodity supply chains, showing that environmental impacts can be affordably and measurably reduced, and by creating consumer preference, entire commodity markets can be tipped and large-scale environmental outcomes delivered.



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

The Coral Triangle NI co-organised with the Government of the Philippines the first Coral Triangle Business Summit in Manila, 19-20th January 2010. It was highly successful and attended by over 160 participants with more than 50% coming from business and industry regionally. Significant progress in reducing turtle bycatch on tuna long lines was achieved through President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announcing the signing of 4 public private partnerships with the tuna sector, and the national adoption of circle hooks to reduce turtle bycatch. It is estimated adoption of circle hooks could prevent the deaths of between 800 and 1500 turtles currently caught as bycatch annually.

## Market Transformation Forests



© Volker Kess / WWF

A major Indonesian plantation company has become the country's first certified maker of sustainable palm oil. Musim Mas Group Plantations is the first company in Indonesia to demonstrate that some of its plantations comply with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Principles and Criteria that help ensure palm oil is produced in a socially and environmentally responsible way. This links to the increased sales of RSPO-certified palm oil.

A major timber company which mostly operates in the Heart of Borneo has joined WWF's Global Forest Trade Network – a worldwide partnership with companies committee to improve management of valuable forests.

Ta Ann Holdings Berhad – which has concessions totalling 600,000ha – signed an MOU with WWF Malaysia in Sarawak in December as a commitment to implement responsible forest management and achieve forest certification.

## Market Transformation Palm Oil



© Sylvia Lane Yorath / WWF

WWF's European palm oil scorecard campaign in 2009 significantly influenced the global sales of palm oil certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The campaign targetted corporate members of the RSPO which had committed to purchase RSPO products but which were failing to do so. Sales increased from 1% of global supply in May, to 35% in January. In the first quarter of 2010, sales of RSPO-certified palm oil increased to 95%, building incentive for the industry to embrace RSPO principles. Currently Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) represents about 3% of global palm oil production, and by the end of 2010 this figure could reach 6%. This would be a similar level of market penetration as MSC & FSC products, achieved over longer time periods albeit for larger volumes. The level of CSPO consumption could reach 10% of all palm oil consumption in the UK by the end of the year.

## Success and Failure at CITES



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WWF enjoyed mixed fortunes at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Doha in March. Successes included the commitment of all rhino range states to combat rampant rhino poaching in southern Africa – including addressing Vietnam’s increasingly important role as an importer of illegally poached rhino horn, and improving law enforcement and trade controls in the rhino range states. Controversial proposals on the African elephant ivory trade were also defeated.

WWF’s marine actions were less successful, with all six proposals to restrict commercial trade failing to pass, including red and pink coral and four shark species (hammerhead, spiny dogfish, porbeagle and oceanic white tip). However, the failure to ban international trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna helped spotlight the plight of the species, hopefully leading to greater commitment by the authority regulating this fishery to impose reductions in tuna catches sufficient to enable this iconic fish to recover.

## Bluefin Tuna and ICCAT



© Gilbert Van Ryckevorsel / WWF-Canada

WWF was closely involved in the proposal by the Principality of Monaco to ban international trade in the Atlantic bluefin tuna due to the plunging stock levels, especially of large adult breeding fish, due to overfishing and high levels of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. The management authority responsible for regulating this fishery – the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) – is failing to act on the best scientific evidence that this fishery is on the verge of collapse and that fishing levels must be drastically reduced for the fishery to recover. WWF used CITES as the global body responsible for preventing biodiversity loss due to international trade to pressure ICCAT to act more responsibly. The proposal failed, largely due to pressure by the Government of Japan, but at the CITES several key stakeholders – including Japan, Canada, the U.S. and the EU – expressed a desire to lead in ensuring a full, science-based recovery plan will be adopted at the next ICCAT meeting later this year.

## Alliance to Reform European Fisheries



© Terry Dominco / WWF-Canada

A new alliance between leading associations of European seafood processors, retailers and WWF has been launched to push for solutions to the crisis of European seas and fisheries. The EU Fish Processors and Traders Association, AIPCE-CEP and Eurocommerce – representing retail, wholesale and international trade interests in the EU – will, with WWF, jointly seek reforms to the troubled European Common Fisheries Policy to lay the basis for sustainability in fisheries and the industry. The alliance represents a significant portion of the supply chain from the processing, trading and retail sectors in Europe, and will seek the replacement of “political” quotas for fish with mandatory long term science-based management plans. Starting April, WWF and its allies will present their shared position to members of the European Commission and Parliament involved in the upcoming reform of European fisheries, and engage with national offices and companies to move towards sustainable well-managed fisheries.

## China for a Global Shift Banking Study Tours



© Robert Churchill

China for a Global Shift, in partnership with a number of key Chinese financial institutions including EXIM, ICBC, MEP and CBRC, has developed a capacity building programme for Chinese Financial Institutions (FIs) in two study tours – Europe and Africa. The purpose is to enable FI middle/senior level staff to understand the need for environmental sustainability as a criteria in Chinese foreign investment policies.

In Europe in November 2009 participants met with their European peers in the banking/investment, export credit communities and regulatory agencies. A workshop in Tanzania in January explored opportunities to promote sustainability – especially as 70% of the country's timber is exported to China. In a visit to Mozambique and South Africa in May 2010 Chinese FIs will meet with local communities, government agencies, and NGOs.

## China Shifting to a Sustainable Economy



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WWF is well-placed to input into the highest levels of government policy in China through participation in the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), an influential body advising the State Council. Top level government officials, including Vice-Premier Li-Keqiang, and the environment minister Zhou Shengxian attended the November CCICED conference, where WWF Director General Jim Leape delivered a keynote speech. CCICED recommended several WWF proposals for inclusion in China's 12th 5-Year Plan which will define the country's economic and social development 2011-2015: Promote efficiency in all uses of natural resources; value ecosystems as integrated systems providing value to species, humans and local economies; and build adaptation to climate change across China's development plans.

## Smart Fishing and Coral Triangle



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In late February 2010, the eight island countries party to the Nauru Agreement, including Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea within the Coral Triangle, announced their countries' commitment that the skipjack tuna fishery will go to full MSC certification. This involves an annual catch of about 360,000 tonnes, representing 40% of the fishery catch, and 10% of global skipjack catch. Skipjack is the fish product most commonly used in 'canned tuna' worldwide and is a hugely important fishery to bring to certification and sustainability. The Nauru Agreement also aims to deliver increased local value for sustainable management. At present, these countries receive only 3-4% of the global value of their tuna. Certification will not be sought for fisheries using controversial fish aggregation devices (FADs) which contribute to overfishing and bycatch especially of juvenile yellowfin and big-eye tuna. The fishery has some of the world's toughest rules to prevent bycatch of sharks, dolphins, and turtles.



## Guyana Law to Limit Bycatch by Shrimp Fishing



© Michel Gunther / WWF-Canon

A new law requiring French Guianese shrimp fishers to use special devices to reduce unwanted fish catch will better protect marine turtles and other vulnerable marine species in the region and is the first time European fishing fleets use such devices. The catch of French Guianese shrimp fishers includes only 10-30% shrimp – the rest is unwanted bycatch usually thrown back into the sea dead or dying, including many marine turtles. The new device, three years in development and supported by WWF, helps channel non-shrimp catch such as sharks, rays and turtles out of the net, achieving a reduction in bycatch of between 25-40%, and a reduction in bycatch of marine turtles of 97%. Use of the devices provides other benefits, such as better quality of the shrimp catch now less likely to be crushed by the unwanted bycatch, and reduced risk of injury from sharks and rays which are now less likely to be caught.

## Implementing the Heart of Borneo Declaration



© Alain Compost / WWF-Canon

Key to the implementation of the Heart of Borneo declaration in 2007 is the development of funding mechanisms and economic options for sustainable development. WWF has launched a new partnership with the East Kalimantan Governor, Indonesia's National Climate Council, and McKinsey and Associates to elaborate options for low carbon development with a central focus on forest protection, reduction of emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), and payments for environmental services. Results will be incorporated into Indonesia's national plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26%. WWF also recently concluded the first trilateral financial feasibility assessment following consultation with the three governments and state/provincial level agencies. This will develop appropriate financial architecture reflecting biodiversity and ecosystem service values to access government, market-driven and donor sources of financing.

## Tilapia Farming Standards to Protect Freshwater Ecosystems



© Luc Delarzes / WWF-Canon

Global standards to address the negative impacts of tilapia farming on environment and society have been finalised through a five-year process involving more than 200 people representing producers, scientists and conservationists. Many of the participants are from the world's leading tilapia producing regions, including Central America and Asia. With almost 75% of tilapia coming from farms, the need for standards is critical and timely, and will enable the industry to grow, providing food and livelihoods, while minimising environmental damage. This is the first set of standards produced by the Aquaculture Dialogues, a series of roundtables coordinated by WWF to bring together the key stakeholders to agree environmental standards for production of 12 aquaculture species.

## Earth Hour 2010 - A Simple Action for a Powerful Message

The outcomes of the 15th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December were indeed, overall, greatly disappointing but there were positive signs. Three elements are significant: Firstly there is a set of negotiation texts which are more or less in advanced stages of development – they touch on adaptation, technology, and REDD. Second, we have a mandate to pursue negotiations in two tracks, even if the ending point for those two tracks is not defined (which creates enormous difficulties as we saw in Copenhagen). Third, we have the “Copenhagen Accord”, an agreement between 29 countries, which the COP officially noted. WWF’s immediate priorities must focus on keeping momentum and regenerating dynamics, use the Copenhagen Accord as a stepping stone for (re) building trust, and getting funds to flow, so that we are better positioned for the next COP in Mexico in late 2010.



© WWF/Sean Kelland

Earth Hour again swept the world starting 20:30 local time on Saturday 27 March – highlighting the possibilities for change when we work together. Around the world, hundreds of millions of people came together with passion, inspiration and hope to send a message that with the right attitude, help and policies from governments and world leaders, we can together achieve the meaningful emissions reductions to prevent average global warming exceeding 2°C and triggering catastrophic climate change. Between the lights going off in Chatham Islands, and being switched back on in Apia, Samoa 24 hours later, the world witnessed lights switched off on heritage sites, ancient and modern marvels, local cafés, schools and universities, factories, royal palaces and backyard dinner parties. A record 126 countries and territories, over 4,000 cities, towns and municipalities, and hundreds of millions of people across the globe took part in delivering a message stating the need for effective action to counter climate change.

## Towards Clean Energy



© Carlos G. Vallecillo / WWF Canon

Clean energy technology is on track to become the world’s third largest industrial sector, with a rapidly increasing share taken up by China. A WWF report released at end 2009, *Clean Economy, Living Planet*, is a country-by-country ranking by clean energy sales, finding that relative to GDP, wind-energy and insulation pioneer Denmark and bio-ethanol giant Brazil are leading the way, followed by Germany and China. The report predicted that by 2020, the industry would be worth EUR 1,600 billion annually, ranking third behind automobiles and electronics. In 2007, clean energy technology had a sales volume of EUR 630 billion and was already ahead of the global pharmaceutical industry. Within the sector, sales revenues from energy efficiency products in 2007 were five times higher than renewable energy revenues, but renewables are growing at a rate of 15%. The report made the point that with political will, this growth could greatly increase, offering viable alternatives to fossil fuels.

## Norway Supports Low Carbon Development in Guyana



© Paul Forster / WWF-Canon

The Government of Norway has committed USD250 million to the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) over a period of 5 years for the support of the Low Carbon Development Strategy of Guyana and activities related to avoided deforestation and sustainable development. Following the Norwegian grant of USD100 million to the Brazilian Amazon Fund last year, this is the second commitment from Norway for large scale efforts supporting the REDD mechanism. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is a mechanism to provide financial incentives at a global scale to manage forests wisely rather than convert them, and is a priority of WWF’s Forest Carbon Initiative. Together with WWF-Norway, WWF-US, and the Forest Carbon Initiative, WWF Guianas has assisted this historic agreement and is working with the Government to assess the national carbon stock. The GRIF will release funds on Guyana meeting stringent targets limiting carbon emissions from forest management.

## 2nd Forest Carbon Finance Summit



© André Bärtschi / WWF-Canon

WWF, Harvard and Duke Universities jointly organised the second annual *Forest Carbon Finance Summit: Getting to Scale, Getting Results*, in February, in Washington, DC. More than sixty thought leaders from the forest carbon finance field met to move REDD+ from a concept to a practical level. The event brought together senior executives, legal and financial leaders, policy experts, and investors, to focus on how the carbon markets, public finance, and new mechanisms can be used to channel funds to enable forest countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Participants discussed various carbon accounting frameworks, experiences from the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation Mechanism, necessary infrastructure to make forest carbon markets work, and ways to achieve permanent and real carbon reduction with effective protection of social and environmental values, with due regard for national sovereignty.

## Norway and France Host REDD+ Partnership



© Marthin Harvey / WWF-Canon

The formalization of a new partnership to develop collaborative efforts on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation – known as REDD+ – is being supported by fifty forest and donor countries. Hosted by the governments of Norway and France and known as the REDD+ Partnership Process, this initiative aims to speed up actions to reduce the approximately 15% of global carbon emissions linked to forest loss by mobilizing financial and technical resources from developed countries. Several countries, including Australia, France, Japan, Norway, UK and US have already pledged \$3,5 billion for REDD+, and many developing countries including Brazil and Indonesia have announced ambitious REDD targets. The mechanisms developed by the REDD+ Partnership will determine how and where REDD+ money will be spent, and WWF is working to ensure that the process adopts robust principles to safeguard the climate, biodiversity and people's livelihoods and rights, while ensuring that this is an open, inclusive and transparent process.

# On the horizon

## Year of the Tiger



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

WWF is working with the Government of Russia and the World Bank's Global Tiger Initiative to stage a summit of heads of government of tiger range countries in Russia, in September 2010. This summit aims to help build the political will required to protect surviving tiger populations and restore these to healthy levels. This will be a highlight of the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese calendar, which began 14 February 2010. WWF range state and donor offices are working together on a Year of the Tiger campaign aiming to double the existing numbers of tigers in the wild to at least 6,000 by the 2022 Year of the Tiger.

WWF will mobilize key tiger range states to commit to improved protection, increased connectivity of habitat especially across borders, for example China/Russia, Bhutan/India and Nepal/India, recover prey populations, and stop the threat from trade.

## United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Summit



© Chris Martin Baird / WWF-Canon

A unique world summit of government leaders is being called to discuss the challenges facing the world's biodiversity at the UN General Assembly in New York, US, to mark the international Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

The summit will be held one month before the 10th major meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. A watershed meeting, this is the deadline by when the world pledged both to establish representative, well-managed protected area networks, and to have slowed the loss of biodiversity.

These two high level summits offer powerful platforms to illustrate both the rapid and continuing loss of biodiversity due to loss of habitat, poaching, and climate change, and successes such as ecosystem-based landuse planning, and creation of well managed and fully representative protected area networks.

## Congo Basin Forest Summit



© Olivier van Bogaert / WWF-CAFRPO

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo together with COMIFAC, the regional secretariat of forest ministers of the Congo Basin, propose to stage a high-level summit in 2010. This will mark the 10th anniversary of the WWF-supported Yaoundé Summit which inspired the regional commitment to achieve conservation and wise use of the Congo Basin forest and freshwater ecosystems.

WWF will strongly support the summit – to be attended by heads of state and key officials from the region and other key countries including China, France, Germany, and US. Key announcements can include progress with protected areas commitments, regional policies on mining, hydropower, bushmeat and protected areas for primates – all contributing to the Green Heart of Africa Initiative.

## Ramsar 40th Anniversary



© Roger Leguen / WWF-Canon

On 5 February 2011, the International Treaty on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) celebrates its 40th anniversary. Ramsar is a highly important legal conservation instrument that has helped securing conservation and wise use of over 185 million hectares of wetlands worldwide. In the past decade WWF has helped extend protection to more than 100 million ha of wetlands – mostly under the Ramsar Convention. This anniversary represents a powerful opportunity to look back at what has been achieved and how WWF can engage with Ramsar and the world’s all-important wetlands in the future – especially in the face of climate change and impacts on freshwater ecosystems.

## World’s First High Seas Marine Protected Areas



© Mike R. Jackson / WWF-Canon

High seas marine protected areas (HSMPAs) – a WWF priority for many years – will top the bill at the upcoming Ministerial Meeting of North-East Atlantic Coastal States under the OSPAR Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment, to be held in Bergen, Norway 20-24 September 2010, where WWF plans to celebrate achievement of the world’s first two formal HSMPAs – the first off the South Orkney islands in the Southern Ocean, the second along a mid-oceanic ridge in the North Sea, the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone. This latter HSMPA is expected to lead to the creation of the world’s first network of marine protected areas on the High Seas, consisting of six sites, which will be important areas to support fisheries recovery and provide protection of the rich biodiversity including deep sea corals.

## WWF 50th Anniversary



© Chris Martin Blair / WWF-Canon

On Friday, 29 April 2011, the WWF Network will celebrate WWF’s 50th anniversary – the date in 1961 when the Morges Manifesto was signed calling for an international conservation organization to mobilize massive resources around the world to fund global conservation priorities.

Led by WWF’s Conservation and Communication & Marketing Committees, planning is underway to mark this auspicious anniversary, through a global communication campaign around 50 of WWF’s big conservation wins – past, present, and future – which will also pay tribute to WWF’s supporters, partners, and members. At a time of mounting global threats to the environment – particularly climate change – this need for WWF and the partners, funding and transformational successes which WWF has helped mobilize, has never been more acute.

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.



*Conservation highlights* is produced bi-annually by Rob Soutter (rsoutter@wwfint.org) and Stéfane Mauris (smauris@wwfint.org) in WWF International's Conservation Division. *Conservation highlights* can be found on WWF's intranet, Connect.



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