



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

May-November 2009

Biodiversity: WWF Priority Places and Species

Coral Triangle heads of state summit

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.



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

In May 2009 at the World Oceans Summit in Manado, Indonesia, the six Coral Triangle heads of state made an historic and precedent-setting commitment to work together to protect marine environments and resources, ensure food security and build climate change resilience. A regional marine action plan was launched, plus national commitments on finance, law and marine protected areas.

A hard-hitting report released in May by WWF's Coral Triangle Initiative ahead of the heads of state summit, *Coral Triangle and Climate Change - ecosystems, people and societies at risk* - shows that without effective action to counter climate change, the Coral Triangle region will be massively damaged and impoverished. The report brings together more than 300 scientific papers and predicts climate change will lead to coral reefs disappearing by the end of this century, huge decrease in the ability of the region's coastal environment to feed people and impacts on the livelihoods of 100 million people.

Coral Triangle mapping turtles



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

A series of conservation maps reveal for the first time the huge journeys and extensive network of critical sites essential to protect endangered marine turtles across the seas of the Coral Triangle, the world's most diverse marine region. The WWF maps bring together the life-cycle journeys, migration routes, foraging areas and nesting sites of green, hawksbill and leatherback turtles. The maps incorporate satellite data to identify areas needing protection, and illustrate that key habitats for the different marine turtles are interconnected and shared by the Coral Triangle countries – making a strong case for joint management across the region. And areas of importance to turtles such as seagrass beds and coral reefs are also key for shrimp, sharks, dugong, and innumerable fish species. The threat of climate change makes action to protect such critical sites a matter of extreme urgency.

Partnerships in the Green Heart of Africa



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

The US International Conservation Caucus Foundation hosted a summit of Congo Basin country Heads of State in Washington DC in September to recognize 10 years of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. Hearings at the US Congress were also held including President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo and the African Union's Climate Change spokesperson, several members of Congress, and WWF-US. All stressed that more support is needed at this critical time, as there are continued threats from bushmeat hunting, illegal unsustainable logging, mining and climate change.

Tigers alive!



© Martin Harvey/WWF-Canon

Total tiger populations have plummeted from 30,000 in the 1980s to an estimated 3,200 today. Together with partners, WWF must build political will in the tiger range states to achieve effective tiger conservation, and reverse the population crash. WWF's Tiger Initiative is now developing a communication and marketing campaign commencing 14 February 2010, the start of the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese calendar, running through to the Tiger Summit in Russia in September 2010. A series of big wins will be announced at the Tiger Summit, and communicate the overall aim to double the tiger population to at least 7,000 by the next Year of the Tiger in 2022.

At a tiger range state meeting in Kathmandu in October, the Nepal Prime Minister announced a 90,000 ha extension of Bardia National Park, a Tiger Conservation Authority to double tiger numbers, and a Wildlife Crime Unit to combat poaching.

Climate impacts on Mekong and Himalayan species



© Milivoje Kravacic / WWF Nepal

WWF's report *The Eastern Himalayas - Where Worlds Collide*, documenting at least 350 new species discoveries in the past decade, was launched by the Living Himalayas Initiative in August warning that global warming in alpine areas hugely threatens these and many other species in the Eastern Himalayas. The report gained huge media attention, becoming WWF's most successful media report launch in recent memory.

And in the Greater Mekong, a report on the 163 species newly discovered in the past year, and now at risk from the impact of climate change, was released ahead of the climate talks in Bangkok in October. New to science, these species include a bird-eating fanged frog which lies in streams waiting for prey.

Protected Areas for a Living Planet



© Hartmut Jungius / WWF-Canon

Promoting the protected area targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), this MAVA Foundation funded programme working with five ecoregions – Altai Sayan, Carpathians, Caucasus, Dinaric Arc and West Africa Marine – recognised a number of successes at a workshop in Rumania in September, including CHF11 million raised in co-financing. Gap analyses of national protected area (PA) networks have recently been completed across Russia, Mongolia, Carpathians, and the Dinaric Arc, and new PAs established in all five ecoregions, including two new parks in Armenia covering 50,000 ha, representing 1.5 percent of the country. The programme has also set up contacts for PA development with the governments of most of the countries of the ecoregions which has proven a powerful stimulus to advance the development of fully-representative, well-managed and funded PA networks. A new set of big wins has been identified by each ecoregion at a September workshop.

Europe's largest riverine protected area



© Mario Romulic / www.romulic.com

The Prime Ministers of Croatia and Hungary jointly announced at a special event in September the creation of a transboundary protected area (PA) along the Drava-Mura-Danube rivers covering 630,000 ha. This is Europe's largest riverine protected area, and both countries have applied for UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status. The initiative is a priority of WWF-Austria, Hungary and the Danube programme. The next step is to extend the transboundary PA to include riverine areas in Austria and Slovenia upstream and Serbia downstream creating an 800,000 ha PA shared by five countries – a world first.

Hope for Borneo's orang-utans



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

The Sabah State Government has agreed with WWF-Malaysia to restore almost 1,000 ha of degraded orang-utan habitat within the Heart of Borneo over the next five years. The restoration work will be funded by the Japanese ITOCHU corporation, which is providing USD1.47 million. This project is located within the 250,000 ha Ulu Segama Malua forest landscape set aside by the Sabah government for sustainable forest management and species habitat conservation. This landscape contains over 50 per cent of the remaining iconic primates in Sabah, contains other degraded areas suitable for restoration for orang-utans and key habitats for the endemic pygmy elephant. The landscape is critical for maintaining connectivity within the Heart of Borneo, and can serve as a model for similar public-private partnerships in the region. The latest population figures for the endemic Borneo orang-utan are 50,000 for the entire island with 11,000 in Sabah.

Progress in the Amazon



© Diego M. Gares / WWF-Canon

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 in October 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.

Ray of hope for polar bears



© Steve Mirelco/WWF-Canon

The US Government has announced the proposed designation of almost 52 million ha of key polar bear habitat across Alaska. This move, which could be crucial for survival of the polar bear – gravely threatened by climate change and the loss of Arctic summer sea ice – was triggered by the designation of the polar bear as threatened under US law. The critical habitat proposed is in three areas: barrier island habitat, sea ice habitat and terrestrial denning habitat. This important measure, welcomed by WWF, comes after a meeting of polar bear experts in mid-year which identified eight polar bear population groups declining – up from five in 2005.

And in Russia, a new Arctic Park in Novaya Zemlya – the long thin island in the Arctic Ocean just north of Archangel in western Russia – has been established. The island hosts key polar bear habitat, and is important also for walrus, wild reindeer and birds, and is a WWF priority for conservation, although WWF is lobbying for a larger area.

High seas marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean



© Newfishing Australia Pty Ltd

Creation of a world first 9.4 million ha high seas Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Southern Ocean was announced at the meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in Hobart, Australia in October. The new MPA will eliminate fishing in the area south of the South Orkney islands, near the Antarctic peninsula region, when coming into force next May. CCAMLR also approved the creation of high seas MPA networks in a further 11 priority areas by 2012. This announcement follows on great progress made with establishing a network of MPAs around the islands of sub-Antarctic, at the outer edges of the Southern Ocean. WWF is helping the South African Government finalize creation of the 18 million ha Prince Edward islands MPA, adding to other islands in the region already protected by Australia, France and South Africa. Many of these islands are crucial spawning and nursery grounds for commercially important fish, and protect isolated and vulnerable species such as the wandering albatross.

WWF partnership with Asian Development Bank



© Tim Geer / WWF-Canon

WWF is expanding its relationship with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia's most significant regional public development finance institution, funding infrastructure, setting standards and influencing member country and private sector investments and practices. At the ADB headquarters in Manila in October, where WWF International Director General Jim Leape met with the ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda, Board and senior officials, ADB confirmed environmental sustainability is a key pillar of future development planning.

ADB and WWF have agreed to run a road show leading up to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Summit in Japan in October 2010, focusing on important joint activities in the region including Coral Triangle, Heart of Borneo and Greater Mekong, and new partnerships on forest carbon financing and freshwater.

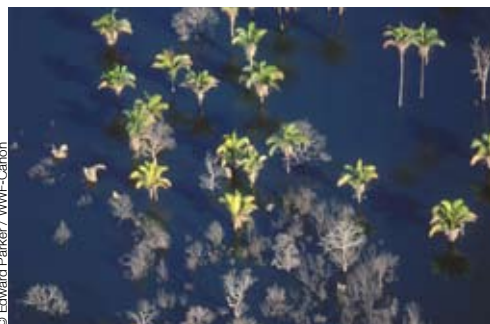
Footprint

Addressing impacts of dams

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.



© Edward Parker / WWF-Canon

An international symposium focusing on the watershed of the Madeira River – the main tributary of the mighty Amazon River – has called for further studies on the environmental, social and economic impact of large hydro-energy projects in the Amazon. The Madeira River is a priority for WWF's Amazon Initiative. Research presented at the symposium, organised by WWF with partners in June, showed that the Brazilian dams Jurau and Santo Antonio would cause major hydraulic and hydrological impacts in Bolivia, increasing the risk of flooding and spread of tropical diseases such as malaria. The dams would also impact fisheries. As 80 per cent of fish species in the Amazon are migratory, many of economic and subsistence importance, these could be impacted and greatly affect also local communities.

Private sector partnerships to protect forests



© Brian J Skerry/National Geographic/Stock/WWF

WWF's Heart of Borneo Initiative and Market Transformation Initiatives are working with Cargill, a major agricultural products multinational, and other partners to ensure expanded palm oil production is achieved by improving efficiency and using degraded forest lands to avoid clearance of intact forest. And a partnership with Standard Chartered Bank and the UK Government is developing an action plan to conserve peatlands so as to prevent aggravated CO₂ emissions from the release of carbon trapped in peat, and protect biodiversity.

In preparation for the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December and efforts on reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), a carbon baseline is being developed for community conserved areas in the Heart of Borneo. This will identify opportunities for REDD pilot projects in carbon-rich, community managed forest landscapes.

Major sea level rise predicted by climate report



© Jim Leape / WWF-Canon

Warming in the Arctic could lead to flooding affecting one quarter of the world's population, substantial new increases in greenhouse gas emissions from massive carbon pools, and extreme global weather changes, according to a new WWF report released in September in support of the demand for a strong climate deal at the UN Climate Summit. The *Arctic Climate Feedbacks: Global Implications* report warns that arctic climate feedbacks – negative effects prompted by the impacts of warming – will make global climate change much more severe than indicated by other recent projections, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 assessment. In a first-of-its kind analysis incorporating the fate of Greenland and west Antarctica ice sheets into global sealevel predictions, the report concludes sea levels will rise by more than one metre by 2100, doubling the 2007 projection which excluded the ice sheets. Flooding of coastal regions would affect more than a quarter of the world's population.

Smart fishing – certification



© Edward Parker / WWF-Canon

In a landmark decision, the Danish Fishermen's Association declared in June that all fish from Danish fisheries will be certified according to standards set by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) by 2012. Of the 52 fisheries currently MSC-certified worldwide, three are Danish. The Association aims to certify a further 30 fisheries – a huge undertaking.

And in Peru, anchovy fishers, who account for 10 per cent of total world fish catch, will for the first time be independently monitored – a huge step towards MSC certification, ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks. Peruvian anchovy is a major export, valued at more than USD1.7 billion in 2008. This September announcement will improve transparency and increase adherence to government efforts to set standards and quotas.

Smart fishing – eliminating bycatch



© Mike R. Jackson / WWF-Canon

Nearly half of the world's recorded fish catch is unused, wasted or not accounted for, as estimated in a new and groundbreaking scientific report co-authored by WWF. The paper, *Defining and estimating global fisheries bycatch*, reports that each year at least 38 million tonnes, representing 40 per cent of what is taken out of the oceans by fishing activities, should be counted as bycatch. In addition to their 'target' catch fishing fleets also catch millions of tonnes of other marine life, commonly known as bycatch – a huge amount of which is effectively "invisible fishing".

An Australian team was awarded the USD30,000 grand prize in the WWF Smart Gear Competition for a fishing gear innovation that could save thousands of seabirds dying accidentally on longlines each year. Designed for coastal tuna and swordfish vessels, their invention allows fishers to set baited hooks underwater out of reach of seabirds, and will minimise or eliminate accidental mortality of seabirds.

Smart fishing – outlawing illegal fishing



© Hartmut Jungius / WWF-Canon

The former Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Helga Pedersen, was honoured at the WWF Annual Conference in Copenhagen in May with a Leaders for a Living Planet award, recognising the Norwegian Government's substantial contribution to achieving responsible and sustainable fisheries, showing leadership, best practice and an inspiring example in combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Norway's efforts with Russia have helped halve IUU fishing in the Barents Sea, a key issue also for the WWF's Arctic and Market Transformation initiatives. Norway has also helped drive agreement on stronger measures to reduce discards through intense fisheries negotiations with the EU, contributing to the rebuilding of the North Sea cod stock and other important fisheries. Norway is soon to become a leader in supply of MSC-certified fish, with certification of the first MSC-certified Norwegian cod and haddock, and more fisheries following.

Transforming markets – forests



© Edward Parker / WWF-Canon

In a huge boost to sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin, it was announced in May that the area of certified forest has risen to four million hectares (ha). The *Industrie Forestière d'Ouessou* in the Republic of Congo contributed 1.6 mill ha – the largest area of forest certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) on the African continent. Sustainable management of the forests of the Congo basin is one of the major goals of WWF's Green Heart of Africa Initiative.

In total, more than 110 million ha of forest and plantation are FSC-certified worldwide in 88 countries, representing seven per cent of the world's production forest, and generating sales worth over USD20 million.

Transforming markets – marine



© Brian J. Skerry/National Geographic Stock/WWF

WWF recognised the success of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), in its 10th anniversary year, at the WWF Annual Conference in May in Copenhagen, where MSC CEO Rupert Howes was presented with a Leaders for a Living Planet award.

The MSC was founded by Unilever and WWF as an independent, market-based, fishery certification and eco-labelling programme to help drive positive solutions to address overfishing. The global market for MSC-certified products doubled in value in FY 2009 to more than USD1.5 billion. Over 50 fisheries are MSC-certified worldwide, of which 14 joined in the past 12 months, with a further 100 in the MSC process.

In total, MSC fisheries make up seven per cent of the global fisheries catch, including more than 50 percent of the whitefish catch worldwide. The MSC is receiving ever-growing support from retailers keen to prove the sustainability of wild-caught fish.

Transforming markets – freshwater



© Sarah Black / WWF-Canon

In May 2009, WWF became a founding member of the Water Footprint Network, a group of 50 partners committed to reducing impacts of crop and commodity production on the world's most critical freshwater habitats. The network will agree water footprinting methods for use across business sectors. Members include businesses, NGOs, academia and government agencies.

At World Water Week in Stockholm in August, WWF and its partners in the Alliance for Water Stewardship announced the formation of a Global Water Roundtable (GWRT) to develop global standards for freshwater stewardship. The GWRT is modelled on similar standard-setting roundtables convened and facilitated by WWF that focus on 12 species harvested through aquaculture including salmon, trout and shrimp, and four global agricultural commodities – sugar, soy, palm oil and cotton.

Soy industry adopts environmental safeguards



© Edward Parker/WWF-Carmon

Leaders in the soy industry have agreed a milestone step toward improving their production practices, which have led to widespread deforestation, displacement of small farmers and indigenous peoples, and loss of natural habitats. In Brazil in May, participants in the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS), unanimously agreed to implement a programme of voluntary production standards aimed at reducing the negative impacts of soy production on the environment and people, particularly in Latin America. The standards require producers to take measures including prohibitions on conversion of areas with high conservation value – such as forests and savannahs – reducing greenhouse emissions and eliminating the most hazardous pesticides.

Water management in Mekong



© Elizabeth Kemf/WWF-Carmon

A workshop in Bangkok in June brought together 100 regional experts to assess the vulnerability of six high priority biodiversity conservation areas in the Greater Mekong. This was followed by a meeting convened by WWF's Greater Mekong Programme with UNEP and the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia to secure government commitments for a regional climate change adaptation agreement – which will be a world first.

Also in the Greater Mekong, the Government of Vietnam has asked WWF for legal criteria to determine minimum river flows. This can provide the basis for water allocation and management to protect both the biodiversity of Vietnam's rivers and the livelihoods of people depending on them. And in Laos, fisheries guidelines developed by WWF have contributed to a draft new fisheries law. The co-management approach was tested and adapted to the needs of government and local communities over a three year period.

Partnering to stop deforestation



© Luc Desluzes/WWF-Carmon

Argentina and Paraguay made a historic pledge to save one of the world's most threatened forests. At the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires in October, the two governments agreed to work towards zero net deforestation in the Atlantic Forest – one of the most threatened and fragmented subtropical forests in the world which includes the famous Iguazu Falls. Shared between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, the forest has been reduced from 500,000 km² to less than 8 percent, or about 35,000 km².

Argentina will implement new land-use plans ensuring the conservation of approximately 1.1 million ha of the forest. Paraguay has extended the country's zero deforestation law to 2013, and is working to introduce economic alternatives to people who depend on the Atlantic Forest for their livelihood. The Brazilian government has established a zero deforestation target by 2010 for the Atlantic Forest, and pledged to establish protected areas covering at least 10 percent of the forest.

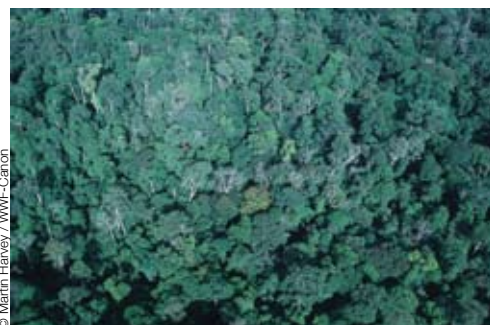
Climate

Markets ready to support forest carbon

The climate crisis is perhaps the ultimate test of WWF's ability to harness its strengths to leverage political commitment at the scale required by an issue that threatens the world as we know it.

Freshwater ecosystems will be particularly impacted by climate change. WWF is working on conservation and adaptation measures for high altitude wetlands in the Himalayas, African Rift and Andes to protect critically important glaciers and wetland sites.

High level meetings have already been held in Poland, Germany, Thailand, and Spain to develop the architecture of the proposed new global climate treaty, which will replace the Kyoto Protocol when its first commitment period ends in December 2012. WWF is using every opportunity to build the political agreement for a just, effective and science-based global climate deal.



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Carlon

During the climate discussions in Bangkok in September, the Forest Carbon Initiative launched the 2009 Forest Carbon Investor Survey. The survey of investors with approximately USD7 trillion of assets under management shows support for an expanded carbon market mechanism to address the estimated 15-20 per cent of global carbon emissions due to damaging activities in forests. Investors are looking for strong policies to be put in place to ensure real reductions in emissions and real benefits to forest communities. With such policies in place, private funds can be mobilized for mechanisms to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing countries. This underscores the need for forests to be part of the global deal on climate change and for commitments of public financing to make REDD a reality.

Record Everest ascent profiles climate change impacts



© climate4life.org

When world record mountaineer Apa Sherpa reached the top of Mount Everest for the record 19th time in May it was only the beginning. Since then WWF Nepal has mobilized school-children, businesses and politicians to address climate change.

In September, H.E. Madhav Kumar Nepal, the Nepalese Prime Minister, carried a petition for climate justice signed by over 200,000 youth to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. In November, Apa Sherpa, along with two times summiteer Dawa Sherpa, toured Europe – one of the highest per capita greenhouse gas emitting regions in the world – to raise awareness of the real impacts of climate change on the Himalayas. During the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December, the Nepalese Government, with WWF Nepal, will host a dinner to remind the climate negotiators of the importance of a strong climate deal.

Climate solutions report



© Carlos G. Vallecillo / WWF-Carlon

WWF released the *Climate Solutions II* report in October, which lays out the stark scenario that the world has five years to transition to a low carbon economy that can prevent runaway climate change. Beyond 2014, projected industrial growth rates and carbon emissions will be too high to prevent average global warming from exceeding 2°C. In two scenarios – emission cuts of 63 and 80 percent by 2050 – the 2°C limit can be achieved. This will require sustained annual growth in excess of 20 per cent in clean and efficient industries, with simultaneous action on greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors, plus market measures backed with a full range of other policies such as energy efficiency. The industries to lead the transition – which will be the fastest industrial revolution in history – are renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, energy efficiency, sustainable low-carbon agriculture and sustainable forest management.

WWF Hot House



© Michael Gunther / WWF-Canon

In May, WWF International set up the Hot House – an innovative political and economic intelligence unit designed to create compelling political arguments for a strong climate deal for the WWF Network to use with the highest level political decision-makers and advisers in targeted countries. The WWF Hot House operates at the interface of political, public and policy work to speak the language of heads of state and senior ministers with analysis and arguments showing a strong deal in Copenhagen is in the national interest and has considerable benefits for the finance, economics, industry, security and health portfolios of governments. Over 100 ministerial meetings were facilitated by the Hot House in four months and a rapid response facility provided fast updates sourced from a library of more than 400 reports and communiqués.

Environmental alliance for Mexico



© Edward Parker/WWF-Canon

WWF Mexico, the Carlos Slim Foundation and the Mexican Government – with the support of WWF-US – established the *Alianza Mexico*, a multi-stakeholder conservation movement for the country, initiated by a USD50 million donation from the Carlos Slim Foundation – the largest donation in WWF’s history – to be matched by another USD50 million from WWF. The *Alianza* has the support of the President of Mexico, science and business leaders, and involves more than 120 local and regional conservationists and organizations. This landmark initiative represents a conservation model that can advance the highest social, environmental and economic goals of Mexico. The initiative has a strong climate, biodiversity, freshwater, institutional capacity and public policy focus. Matching funding is being sought, and if successful, the *Alianza’s* investments may multiply.

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.

On the horizon

Earth Hour in Copenhagen



© F. Parhizgar / WWF-Canon

The City of Copenhagen in Denmark will play host to a single-city Earth Hour while it hosts the crucial international conference in December intended to produce a new deal to stabilize the Earth's climate.

The special Earth Hour, calling on Copenhagen citizens to switch off their lights for one hour starting 19:00 on Wednesday 16 December, will provide an on-site demonstration to the decision-makers at the UN Climate Summit that they have a responsibility to ensure current and future inhabitants of this planet are not victim to catastrophic climate change. This builds on the overwhelming support for effective climate action demonstrated by hundreds of millions of people in 88 countries turning off their lights on 28 March earlier this year.

UN climate summit



© www.martinbeaujeu.ca / WWF-Canon

WWF's overriding priority in 2009 is to help achieve agreement in Copenhagen, in December 2009 at the UN Climate Summit on a just, effective and science-based global climate deal which will ensure greenhouse gas emissions peak and start falling by 2020, and that emissions are reduced 80 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050. These targets are set to keep average global temperatures from rising by more than 2° C, above which climate change is predicted to have catastrophic consequences. WWF's campaign will publicly demand decision-makers act responsibly and work with government leaders to provide the solutions.

Starting Saturday 5 December the WWF Arctic Tent will operate in a major public square in Copenhagen with presentations daily on climate change and the Arctic, and the need for a strong climate deal. Go to www.panda.org/arctic from 1 December.

The Year of the Tiger



© Marth 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 state of tiger range countries in Vladivostok, 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 mark the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese calendar, which begins 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 up to at least 7,000 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, Thailand/Malaysia and Nepal/India, recover prey populations, and stop the threat from trade.

Congo Basin forest summit



© Olivier van Bogaert / WWF-CARPO

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.

United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Summit



© Chris Martin Bahr / 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, United States, on 20 September 2010 to mark the international Year of Biodiversity.

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.

WWF 50th anniversary



© Chris Martin Bahr / WWF-Canon

On Friday, 29 April 2011, the WWF Network will celebrate WWF's 50th anniversary – commemorating 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 Communication and Marketing Committee, planning is underway to mark this auspicious anniversary. At a time of mounting global threats to the environment – particularly climate change – this need for WWF 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* is also available as a Powerpoint presentation. Both can be found on WWF's intranet, Connect.



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland
Tel : +41 22 364 9111
Fax : +41 22 364 8836
www.panda.org