



WWF China

newsletter

January-March, 2007

Large Energy-saving Campaign Launched

To help China achieve its ambitious goal of reducing its energy consumption by 20 per cent by 2010, WWF China launched its nationwide “20 Ways to 20%” energy-saving campaign on January 20 in Beijing.



With a 7-meter huge black balloon resembling the CO₂ emission from cars inflated at the kick-off ceremony, WWF presented 20 easy-to-do tips for people to practise in their everyday lives. The campaign, consisting of two phases, will run till 2008 during which WWF plans to launch series of public theme activities along with its partners including an energy-saving competition and a large bicycle tour. The special website, www.20to20.org in Chinese and English, was also launched for further online interactions.

As a developing country with the largest population in the world and a growing consumption rate to match, China is seen as an important country to help in the fight to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Today in China, 96 per cent of all CO₂ emissions are energy related, with urban energy consumption accounting for more than 25 per cent of the country's overall consumption.

“Through various activities we hope that more and more people will get involved to save energy on their own,” said WWF China Country Representative Dermot O’Gorman. “This will ultimately help relieve the environmental problems caused by global warming.”

Time to Go for Energy Gold, WWF Tells Athletes

The global conservation organization WWF has called all athletes aiming to compete in the 2008 Beijing Olympics to win gold by investing carbon emissions from their plane flights into a Gold Standard climate-change offset project.

With just 500 days to go until the 2008 Games from March 27, the Beijing Olympics is expected to bring 10,000 athletes to China by air from more than 200 countries and regions. Together with supporters, the event will inject hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. On average each athlete will cause the release of around four tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere in his or her bid to win an Olympic medal.

WWF is working with the wholesale and retail offset business to develop an opportunity for athletes, supporters, the media, and anyone else planning to travel to the Games so they can easily enter their journey details, calculate the relevant CO₂ emission through the carbon calculator and donate to a Gold Standard project such as a wind farm, solar power station or other energy efficiency projects.

“If athletes offset their carbon emissions at a Gold Standard level it gives them the opportunity to contribute towards a healthier planet and a healthier Olympic Games,” said James Leape, Director General of WWF International.

“This isn’t a high jump. We are hurdling towards a dangerous future if we don’t dramatically reduce carbon emissions,” added Dermot O’Gorman, WWF China Country Representative. “We want athletes to inspire people to make their air travels more environmentally friendly. Each of us is wrestling with the impacts of global warming and we need to row in the same direction, each working towards our personal best to reduce our emissions.”

Wetland Ambassadors Awarded at the World Wetland Day

A total of 21 college students selected out of the thousands of participants in WWF’s Wetland Ambassador Action in 2006 were awarded on the 11th World Wetland Day that falls on February 2 in Beijing.



A year after its launch in 2001, the Wetland Ambassador Action received support from the State Forestry Administration (SFA) and has since become a significant annual public affair.

Last year, a total of 21 college teams of “wetland ambassadors” conducted extensive investigation throughout 20 important wetlands along the Yangtze River and compiled reports of valuable references to the improvement of wetland management.

WWF’s longtime partner HSBC also received a Wetland Ambassador flag, presented by vice chairman Zhang Siqing of Chinese Peoples’ Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Jia Zhibang, Director General of SFA, for its consistent support to wetland conservation in China over the years.

“Wetland protection and sustainable use is one of the focuses WWF has been working on. Through encouraged participation of the individuals and the engagement of corporate organizations, we are confident that conservation improvement of the wetland in China is possible,” said Dermot O’Gorman, WWF China Country Representative.

Renewable Contributions Awarded

WWF and Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA) presented the first Panda Cup Award for Outstanding Contributions to China’s Renewable Resources to six people on March 15 to recognize the winners’ contributions in the field over past year.

The world ’ s strained energy supply has brought renewable energy to the foreground. China exhibits new markets for renewable energy and has had exceptional success in advancing renewable energy over the past decade. Following the promulgation of the Renewable Energy Law of People’s Republic of China, the renewable energy market in China has seen a fast growth as it will likely develop into the biggest renewable energy market in the world in near future.

Meanwhile, the emergence of well-performing enterprises and individuals in the renewable energy field shows great leadership. Positive influences in policy, industry, market and society appears set to sustainably boost China ’ s economic and social development.

“By joining WWF to present the awards, we hope to magnify these winners’ examples, and strengthen the confidence and determinations of our government and the enterprises towards renewable energy, which helps make contributions to building a harmonious and environmentally-friendly society,” said Li Junfeng, secretary of CREIA.

“These pioneers in China’s renewable energy area have not only promoted the sustainable development in China but also demonstrated China’s leadership as a large developing country in coping with the global warming, which effectively helped the efforts to keep the temperature rise below 2 °C,” said Li Lin, WWF China’s head of conservation strategies.

Wild Amur Tiger Found Again in Hunchun

A wild Amur tiger was photographed on December 31, 2006 after it killed local farmer Liu Sihua’s grazing cow in Hunchun Nature Reserve in Jilin Province. The predator has been sighted in this area three times since 2003.

The reserve staff successfully captured the image of the tiger with stealthily-set infrared cameras when it returned to feed on the carcass at night. Later analysis shows that it is an adult Amur tiger about two metres long, 1.2 metres high and weighs more than 200 kilograms.



A natural habitat of the Amur tiger bordering China, Russia and North Korea, the nature reserve has been designated a priority protection area for the Amur tiger and leopard. WWF has chosen the nature reserve as one of the priority areas to work on and has offered apparatus like infrared cameras, GPS, telescopes, digital cameras and computers to help improve its monitoring skills. The nature reserve is also one of the demonstration sites where WWF-China’s Harbin Office and WWF-Russia’s Far East Office are currently implementing joint monitoring and patrol.

“The reappearance of wild Amur tiger in Hunchun has further proved that the wild Amur tiger’s territory is expanding. WWF is happy to see that the protection of Amur tiger and the reserve’s monitoring skills have improved remarkably, and will continue the protection of Amur tiger and leopard in northeastern area of China.” said Lou Jia, director of WWF-China’s Harbin Office.

Contact Tan Rui for above news, + 86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3813, rtan@wwfchina.org

TRAFFIC Calls on Hong Kong Authorities to Address Illegal Trade of Rare Fish

Following the Philippine apprehension of a Hong Kong-licensed fishing vessel carrying tonnes of illegally caught fish in December last year, TRAFFIC called on Hong Kong authorities to take the initiative to work closely with source countries in the region to ensure the sustainable trade in Humphead Wrasse, which is disappearing at a fast pace due to growing market consumption.

The Humphead Wrasse is the world's largest coral reef fish. It is also a pricey delicacy served mainly in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and on the Chinese mainland, reeling in over USD100 per kilogram. The species is rapidly disappearing due to growing market consumption. Destructive poaching practices are also destroying livelihoods of fishermen and traders, as well as fragile coral reef habitats.

In Hong Kong SAR, a permit from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is required for the import, introduction from the sea, export, re-export and possession of Humphead Wrasse and its derivatives. In China, a permit from the CITES Management Authority is required for the import, introduction from the sea, export, and re-export.

An improved CITES management plan combined with monitoring and enforcement are needed to protect the Humphead Wrasse. Another vital ingredient is a proposal for increasing public awareness and the stakeholders' involvement. "AFCD's leadership has been crucial to protecting the Humphead Wrasse. We now call on AFCD and others to quickly implement these recommendations before it is too late," said Timothy Lam of TRAFFIC East Asia, "Sustainable trade benefits everyone in the long term."

Contact Caroline Liou, + 86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3811, caroline@wwfchina.org

Action Plan for Panda Habitat Monitoring/Patrolling Strengthened

On April 2, 2007, WWF and the Shaanxi Forestry Department (SFD) jointly launched this year's panda habitat monitoring/patrolling (M/P) action plan on April 2 to further implement the conservation effort in Qinling Mountains.

Patrolling was initiated in early 2006 and is regularly done each month. Large-scale monitoring in Qinling is executed twice a year in spring and autumn. The M/P work has significantly improved the systematic conservation and management of panda habitat. It has also markedly boosted the capacity building of the nature reserves, among which few had conducted monitoring and patrolling before.

In 2006, monitoring was carried out in nine panda counties totaling an area of 526,645 hectares. Over 200 rangers from 20 nature reserves helped monitor 307 animal routes and 83 plant routes. Around 4,000 info sheets were filled out and uploaded onto the provincial panda monitoring website for data analysis.

"With collected data, we know more specifically about what to address, what we have done and what has to be done," said Zhou Lingguo, Deputy Director of Wild Animal Protection Division of SFD.

WWF Small Grants Projects Burgeoning in Qinling

WWF pooled resources with Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in March to support ten local community projects through its Small Grants. Their aim is to lessen the impact these communities have on the neighbouring nature reserves, while also increasing their income.

The projects focus mainly on alternative livelihoods such as livestock breeding, vegetable plantation, medicinal herb plantation, biogas construction and tourism products, and will be undertaken in six counties in the Qinling Mountains. WWF will provide each project with funding ranging from 15,000 yuan (US\$ 1,875) to 30,000 yuan (US\$ 3,750). Overseen by WWF and nature reserves, a certain percentage of the profits from each project will go towards a nature conservation fund. These funds are managed by the villagers themselves to support more household and nature conservation work.

“The practice in Qinling has shown that the introduction of alternative livelihoods into the community has a positive effects of reducing illegal behaviors such as poaching, logging, and human disturbances to the panda core areas. This approach is more villager-oriented - rather than sacrificing their benefit for the conservation of wild animals, villagers are becoming self-sustaining that allows them to be a part of the nature conservation force,” said Liu Xiaohai, Head of WWF’s Qinling Project.

This cooperation is also the first of its kind between WWF and a research institute. By introducing more stakeholders, WWF will be able to continue to explore new approaches to improving community livelihood while protecting the wild animal habitats.

Contact Zhao Jinna for above news, + 86 29 8781 8602, jnzhao@wwfchina.org

News

Study tour improves wildlife protection

WWF China worked with the Tibet Forestry Bureau (TFB) and WWF Nepal to organize a 10-day study tour to Nepal. Local officials studied methods of illegal wildlife trade control, wildlife protection, nature reserve management, and sustainable community development - methods successfully implemented in Nepal. The study group visited Chitwan National Park and WWF Nepal project sites, and met their Nepali counterparts from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the Department of Forestry. Both groups expressed particular interest in future cooperation on conserving wildlife and halting the illegal wildlife trade.

Training workshop to improve capacity building

WWF and the Tibet Forestry Bureau (TFB) organized a 2-day workshop in Lhasa to improve conservation workers' knowledge of wildlife issues and law enforcement. About 30 officials from WWF staff, the TFB, China Customs' Lhasa Office, and the Tibet and Lhasa Administrations of Industry and Commerce took part on March 28 and 29. The workshop comprised information on wildlife domestication and breeding programmes, migratory bird ecology and bird flu prevention, biodiversity management in the Qomolangma Nature Reserve and human-wildlife conflict resolution. It also featured an introduction to recent government policies on conservation and wildlife protection.

Contact Dawa about this news item, + 86 891 6364 380, dawa@wwfchina.org

FSC China Working Group convened on future development

The preparation meeting of the FSC China Working Group was held in Beijing on March 26. Initiated in March 2006, the working group aims to develop FSC China's national standard, help enterprises with product certification and resolve complaints over FSC certification. It

also strives to improve forest conservation awareness among stakeholders, once formally endorsed by the FSC. The website for the China Forest Certification Network was also launched at the meeting.

Contact Wang Xiangyi, +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3297, xywang@wwfchina.org

Dam workshop held to develop green hydropower

The Chinese version of Green Hydropower and Low Impact Hydropower Certification Criteria was released in conjunction with a special workshop held on March 10. Co-organized by WWF, the workshop attracted about 100 participants from government agencies, power enterprises, academic institutes and NGOs. The workshop presented a chance for participants to seek solutions for China to deal with the ecological impacts of dam, signaling WWF's dam strategy and goal are being embraced in China.

Contact Tang Wanlin, +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3238, wltang@wwfchina.org

Construction of Laoxiaocheng Education Centre resumes

Construction of the WWF-supported Laoxiancheng Education Centre and Bamboo Lodge in Qinling resumed recently, after work was temporarily halted last November due to cold weather. The Education Centre will open this summer after completion of the furnishing work. The centre will educate tourists on eco-friendly behavior in the Laoxiancheng region and the Qinling Mountains.

Qinling Panda Habitat Initiative outlined

An initiative to protect pandas in the Qinling region over the next five to 10 years was put together at a workshop WWF hosted in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province on March 23-24, 2007. The workshop facilitated a discussion between a group of 40 representatives from government agencies, local nature reserves and

communities. "The conservation work taking place here is not just for the giant panda but aims to maintain the integrity of biodiversity conservation, including forest, species, water and wetland. Its success or failure will influence the whole region and even all of China," said Fan Zhiyong, director of WWF China's Species Programme.

Bamboo flourishes in Dutch Youth Corridor

Local rangers found that 98 per cent of bamboo planted in the panda corridor along National Highway 108 has survived the cold winter and dry season. About 100 hectares of bamboo were planted as part of the Dutch Youth Corridor in 2006. The initiative was organized by WWF and Guanyinshan Nature Reserve with the aim of reconnecting panda habitat separated by the highway. Traces of wild animals have also been found.

Potential cooperation between WWF and Plan China

WWF and Plan China met in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province in January for two meetings to discuss potential cooperation in Qinling, where both have projects. Plan China is an international NGO working towards lasting improvements for impoverished children in developing countries. The first meeting saw an information exchange on project implementation and operational approaches. The second meeting centered around an appraisal workshop featuring Plan China's sanitation project in local community areas.

Rescue centre treats injured and sick pandas

Two pandas have received treatment at the Shaanxi Wildlife Rescue Centre after they were found by villagers in the Niuweihe Nature Reserve. The first panda was badly injured in a fight with other pandas last December. Although treated successfully, chances for its return to the wild are slim due to its age and the loss of its left paw. Another seriously sick panda was spotted in the same region three months later, but its condition stabilized after being sent to the centre.

Contact Zhao Jinna about this news item, + 86 29 8781 8602, jnzhao@wwfchina.org

TRAFFIC calls people to avoid five foods during Spring Festival

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, called on people to do without five specific kinds of food during the Spring Festival. The appeal seeks to lessen humanity's adverse impact on its natural resources. The five foods are abalone, shark's fin, sea cucumber, facai moss (flagelliform nostoc) and 'health tonics' containing products from endangered species. "For many of these species, we feel that until such time as there is a sustainable and certifiable source of these items, consumers should stay away from them as they are

coming under increasing threat," said Eric Bohm of WWF Hong Kong.

Contact Caroline Liou, + 86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3811, caroline@wwfchina.org

Dongting Lake conservation legislation accepted

The Dongting Lake's conservation proposal was formally accepted at the tenth session of the Fifth Hunan Provincial People's Congress (HPPC) on February 2, also World Wetland Day. The legislation proposal delineates the integrated management of Dongting Lake, emphasizing the punishment of harmful actions to the lake's environment. It is expected to accelerate the legislation of the Dongting Lake Management that will protect the bio-diversity and water resources with its long-term economic friendly policy.

Chishui River project in progress

Two meetings in January and March determined the major partners and strategic plans for the Chishui River conservation project. The meetings were held by WWF and Guizhou Environmental Protection Bureau with the participation of the People's Congress of Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. The plans outline four major works due for completion in June: establishing a cooperation mechanism, selecting a sustainable development demonstration site, getting enterprises involved, and organizing a symposium that will promote the communication and cooperation needed to protect the Chishui River.

International research centre to be established at Dongting Lake

WWF and the Chinese Academy of Sciences are to jointly establish the Dongting Lake International Wetland and Basin Management Research and Training Center in the Dongting Lake region. The centre will serve as a high level institute for research, training, consultation and supporting legislation, and planning. The agreement was signed on April 14 during the second Yangtze Forum in Changsha, Hunan Province.

Contact Tan Lulu, + 86 731 5110 607, ltan@wwfchina.org

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WWF China
Room 1609, Wen Hua Gong, Beijing Working
People's Culture Palace (Laodong Renmin
Wenhua Gong Dongmen), Beijing, P.R. China
Editor: Tan Rui
Tel: +86 10 6522-7100 ext. 3813
E-mail: rtan@wwfchina.org

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