



WWF China

newsletter

April-June, 2007

WWF Talks with Leaders on World Environment Day

More than 200 delegates including world leaders, corporate partners and conservationists convened at the WWF Annual Conference on the World Environment Day on June 5 to jointly address some of the most urgent issues of our time by attending a special forum, which opened in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, sponsored by WWF and China's State Forest Administration.



Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan gave the opening address in which he challenged nations and citizens to change the way they think about and use energy to halt climate change and create a more fair and equitable society for all.

“ The theme of our conference is Living Within One Planet, and never has the need to do so been greater,” said WWF International's President, His Excellency, Chief Emeka Anyaoku. “If poor countries are to develop, rich countries maintain their prosperity, and emerging economies reach their full potential, then we must all embrace sustainable development. We simply cannot go on living beyond our natural means.

WWF's Living Planet Report 2006, released last October, highlighted a rapid and continuing loss of biodiversity, along with an increasing humanity's footprint worldwide. “If we are going to succeed in reducing our footprint, and reducing our loss of biodiversity, we must do more, and we must do it now. We need to embark on ambitious new partnerships with governments, corporations, international institutions and other NGOs if we are going to get the world on a sustainable track,” said James Leape, WWF International's Director General.

WWF's annual conference was also addressed by high-level figures from the Chinese Government as well as corporate leaders including E. Neville Isdell, Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company; Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Vice-President of Knowledge Managements and Sustainable Development at the Asian Development Bank; Jorma Ollila, Chairman of Nokia, and the CEO of China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation, Xu Xubo.

WWF Partnered with the Coca-Cola Company in Its Pledge to Freshwater Conservation

The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) pledged on June 5 to lead its global beverage operations, including those of its franchise bottlers, to replace the water it uses in its beverages and their production. The Company will focus its actions in three core areas: 1) reducing the water

used to produce its beverages, 2) recycling water used for beverage manufacturing processes, and 3) replenishing water in communities and nature.

The pledge was announced at the annual meeting of WWF in Beijing, where the Company launched a multi-year partnership with WWF to conserve and protect freshwater resources. This \$20 million (US) commitment from The Coca-Cola Company to WWF will be used to help conserve seven of the world's most important freshwater river basins, support more efficient water management in its operations and global supply chain, and reduce the Company's carbon footprint.



“We are focusing on water because this is where The Coca-Cola Company can have a real and positive impact,” said E. Neville Isdell, Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. “Our goal is to replace every drop of water we use in our beverages and their production.”

“The Coca-Cola Company is answering the call to help solve the global freshwater crisis through this bold partnership,” said James Leape, Director General of WWF International. “The Company is stepping into new and uncharted territory, and we look forward to working together to meet the bold commitments they have made to water stewardship.”

Contacts Lee Poston, WWF-US, +1-202-299-6442, lee.poston@wwfus.org

Comprehensive Health-Check Report on Yangtze River Released

The Yangtze Conservation and Development Report that examines the overall “health” of the river was released on April 14 as the first comprehensive study outcome to highlight the crucial transition in the river’s conservation and development that is faced by problems and challenges.

The report says that the lack of a well-coordinated and integrated development mechanism stands to be a prominent issue in conservation effort. It also pinpoints that the Yangtze River, the largest river in China, is under steep pressure as threats of natural disasters, water quality deterioration and biodiversity loss are mounting up. The middle and lower Yangtze is periled by potential catastrophic floods as how the Three Gorges Dam would function in flood control under today’s circumstance of global warming remains uncertain.

The report suggests a reform of the current governing body of the region to improve the integrated river basin management (IRBM), which should involve wider participation of all stakeholders including the central government’s agencies, local governments and communities along the river, businesses and experts into the decision-making process to well balance conservation and development. Channels like the Yangtze Forum are also needed to enrich the conservation approach through a well-functioning mechanism of better discussion and communication.

“The report objectively and systematically probed into the past, current and future facts of the river’s conservation and development, which is important for the conservation of the Yangtze during development,” said Dermot O’Gorman, Country Representative of WWF China.

Yangtze Forum Held to Improve Conservation of the Yangtze and Dongting Lake

Delegates from over 20 countries convened at the second Yangtze Forum in Changshai, Hunan Province on April 15 to explore solutions to environmental issues around the Dongting Lake and China's "mother river" — the Yangtze River.



With the theme of the Yangtze River and Dongting Lake, the three-day forum draws together Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) experts from home and abroad, government officials and representatives from NGOs as well as businesses to focus particularly on how to improve conservation of the Dongting Lake and consequently contribute to the sustainable development of the Yangtze. A special Changsha Declaration: Guiding Principles for Dongting Lake Conservation was announced at the forum, calling all involved stakeholders to face the impending threats by promoting systematically the flood prevention and calamity relief, water resources management, integrated pollution prevention and ecosystem protection in Dongting Lake.

Organized by Hunan provincial government with WWF's support, the forum is consisted of a plenary and five sub-forums, among which a corporate sub-forum was particularly set for the first time since the forum was inaugurated two years ago.

"The Yangtze Forum is strengthening the protection and development of one of the country's most economically – and environmentally - important rivers and WWF will continue our ongoing support to enhance the sustainable management of the Yangtze River, for the a bright future for the environment and people," said James P. Leape, General Director of WWF International. The third Yangtze Forum will be staged in Shanghai in 2009.

China Gears Action to Address Climate Change

WWF is excited to see China had taken a step forward in addressing climate change by releasing its first Climate Change National Action Plan on June 4, 2007, the first formal acknowledgement of China's goal to reduce CO₂ emissions through a cut of energy consumption by 20 per cent per unit of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 2010.

" The Chinese government has set a responsible and positive example for other countries, both developing and developed, in the efforts to increase energy consumption efficiency and explore low-carbon development path despite several factors of pressures such as population and fast economic development," said WWF International Director General James Leape.

Commissioned by the State Council, the plan was jointly completed by relevant departments and several scores of experts brought together by the National Development and Reform Commission over the past two years.

WWF thinks that the plan will provide official guidance to governments on various levels on how to improve their capacity and mechanism to tackle the climate change issue for sustainable development and policy planning. According to WWF China Climate Change and Energy Programme director Chen Dongmei, the quick and effective transfer and spread of technologies that help combat climate change is crucial to determine the ultimate result of our

global fight against the challenge. “We hope that innovative mechanism could be explored within the United Nation’s Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to encourage regional and global technological cooperation, which will turn the counteraction into a driver for growth,” she said.

Re-think on China’s New Role in Global Economy

WWF has called the world to change the current economic pattern in order to achieve sustainability with the release of its “Re-think China’s Outward Investment Flows” report on April 25 in Beijing. The report thoroughly examined the phenomenon of China’s rapidly growing outward investment as being driven by the country’s need to acquire natural resources to supply products to developed nations such as the United States and the European Union, and build economic welfare at home.



According to the report, China’s investments occurring at present are to a large extent driven by a Western industrial development model. “Oil, iron ore, timber, cotton and soy, are just a few examples in the report that show that both Chinese import demand and outward investment will multiply in the years to come,” said Dennis Pamlin, WWF International’s Global Policy Advisor and co-author of the report. However, Pamlin pointed out that most natural resources imported to China are re-exported in the form of value-added items or products ready for consumption in other countries.

The report recommends a “triangular approach” in both global diplomacy as well as trade and investment policy-making that involved countries and regions in a resource-efficient “circular economy” instead.

“ The current Chinese infrastructure and investment patterns being developed and implemented present a window of opportunity to put in place a structure that ensures that both government and business policies in China support long-term sustainable development around the world,” said Li Lin, Head of Conservation Strategies of WWF China.

Full report is available at www.panda.org/investment.

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

Briefs

CFTN recruitment celebrated

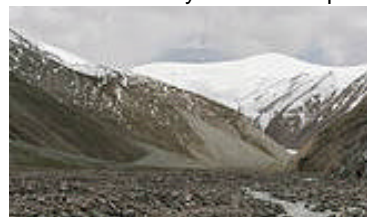
Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau and Muling Forestry Bureau in Heilongjiang Province became new members of CFTN at a celebration on June 14 in Beijing. The ceremony was held to celebrate Dongfanghong’s acquisition of FSC certificate on sustainable forestry management for more 280,000 hectares of forests. By now, over 700,000 hectares of forests have passed FSC certification in China (the largest in Asia); 12 flooring and furniture manufacturers have obtained CFTN members; and over 10 applicants are being assessed.

Contact An Yan, +86 10 6522 7100 ext. 3224, yan@wwfchina.org

Feature

Melting glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau

- by Claudia Delpero



“If I compare this land to what it used to be in the 1960s, it is difficult for me to recognize it,” recalls Qi Mei Duo Jie, a 71-year-old nomadic herder from

Poverty-lift project concluded in success

The summary report of Trade Liberalization, Poverty and Environment project was released at a workshop held on May 27 in Kunming, Yunnan Province. Designed under the framework of the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, the project carried out in the ethnic minority Pingbian County selected for study on the link between national and regional economic policies, poverty and environment. More than 20 representative from participating organizations took part in the workshop.

Contact Fang Jinmin, +86 871 5039066, jmfang@wwfchina.org

China's ecological footprint report to be launched

WWF China and the Secretariat of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) signed an agreement to jointly launch China's Ecological Footprint Report Project on June 8 in Beijing. The report will be released upon the completion of the project in spring 2008, with an interim version to be presented to CCICED's Annual General Meeting in November 2007. Comprising data and analysis on ecological footprint and living planet index, the report is to enhance public awareness, promote joint research, and provide policy recommendations to China's high-level decision makers.

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

Action to control pollution in Dongting Lake enacted

In regard to WWF's facilitation and the imperative urge from the central government, the Hunan Provincial Government has motivated a stormy action to close down over 200 pollutants-discharging mills and factories in Dongting Lake region to strengthen protection of the lake. The closed pollution sources mainly include water mills, hemp mills, fertilizer mills and chemical factories that have hardly paid any attention to the impacts upon the environment from their active production for years.

Cooperation MOU signed to improve lake protection

WWF signed a MOU with Hunan Water Resources Department (HWRD) on April 17 to improve protection cooperation in Dongting Lake. As the governing body of water related issues in the province, HWRD is willing to cooperate with WWF on Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM), Flood Retention Area Management, Strategic on River and Lake Interaction after the Three Gorges Dam Project, knowledge exchange and training. ILBM is thought to be efficient to involve related stakeholders and factors into an integrated mechanism that benefits the biodiversity conservation and management in a long term.

Chishui River report to be released

The first Chishui River ecological report will be released in August at a symposium planned for experts' review. Compiled by experts from WWF, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Yangtze Water Resource Commission, the report will be the first comprehensively biological and ecological analysis of the river, which runs 500 kilometers as the last free flowing river of the Yantze.

Wetland research center set in Dongting Lake

WWF-CAS announced the establishment of a Research Center of Dongting Lake Wetland on April 16. The center

Yanshiping in China's central-western Qinghai Province.

"Glaciers are melting, temperatures are rising and rainy seasons have become unpredictable."

Yanshiping is the last town on the Qinghai-Tibet Highway before entering Tibet. At an altitude of 4700 metres, its landscape in summer is marked by shaggy yaks grazing in the green alpine pastures and the transparent blue waters of Buqu River – a tributary of the Yangtze. Winters are white and freezing, with temperatures reaching as low as -20° C.

It is no surprise that people welcome a warmer, more comfortable climate in this remote region. But there is another side to the changing climate story.

Pressure on the Plateau

Nomadic groups of Tibetans have been moving around this area for time immemorial, following the natural rhythm of the seasons and availability of grassland to raise their livestock.



Qi Mei Duo Jie's family has been raising yaks for at least three generations.

"This year has been very dry, and with less grassland it will take longer to properly feed and raise livestock," he says. "This will mean a lower income for us."

Click http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/features/index.cfm?uNewsID=108360 to read the full story.

will function as to carry out WWF's conservation work, promote the knowledge on wetland and serve as base for researches in Dongting Lake. WWF will provide financial and technical support to the center in coming 10 years.

Contact Tan Lulu for above news, +86 731 5110607, ltan@wwfchina.org

Crested ibis set free in Qinling Mountains

A total of 26 captive-bred crested ibises were set free into the forest near Zhaigou Village in Shaanxi Province's Ningshan County in the Qinling Mountains on May 31, where the endangered species was reintroduced into the wildness for the first time. All these birds have gone through one-month adaptability training and health check before they were introduced from Yangxian County, where the first 7 birds were found.

Graduation of management course celebrated

A total of 24 nature reserve staffs received their certificates at the last group of students at a management course by WWF on April 1 in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. The three-year course was initiated by WWF to help nature reserve staffs acquire more professional knowledge and capacities on management. The course covered key topics concerning nature reserve management and qualified graduates will be deployed to relevant positions in nature reserves accordingly.

Joint anti-poaching patrol succeeded

The first joint anti-poaching patrol in Shaanxi Qingmichuan Nature Reserve completed in success on April 20. The 10-day campaign was staged by WWF and neighbouring Maozhai and Yuhe nature reserves in Sichuan and Gansu provinces to address the poaching, illegal logging and herbal collection activities in the area, providing effective joint forces to combat poaching while improve the reserve management and protection.

WWF Annual Conference delegates visit Qinling

A total of 13 representative from WWF Switzerland, Canada, India and Tanzania visited WWF Qinling Project during June 11 to 13 after attending the Annual Conference in Beijing. The delegates visited Panda House, South Taibaishan eco-trail and homestays supported by WWF, which offered a direct insight into the project progress that have benefited local communities and the conservation.

Contact Zhao Jinna, +86 29 8781 8602, inzhao@wwfchina.org

WWF China People

COMINGS

- ◆ Zhou Lidong joined Scientific Development & International Policy Programme as Banking & Finance Programme Officer.
- ◆ Ang Ling and Liu Dongxin joined Climate Change and Energy Programme as consultants.
- ◆ Chu Ziyang joined Freshwater Programme as a consultant.
- ◆ Zhang Yifei joined Freshwater Programme as a consultant
- ◆ Xiao Yu joined TRAFFIC as a consultant.

GOINGS

- ◆ Peng Lei has left Scientific Development & International Policy Programme.
- ◆ Dong Ke has left Forest Programme.
- ◆ Yang Yang has left Species Programme.
- ◆ Yang Qin and Wang Shasha have left TRAFFIC.
- ◆ Tshering Lama has left as WWF UK's Asian Big Cats coordinator based in Beijing.

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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