



WWF China

newsletter

January – March, 2008

WWF calls on individuals: pledge to fly carbon neutral to the Olympics

WWF calls on all overseas and domestic visitors to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to pledge a carbon neutral travel through the bilingual Go for Gold campaign website: www.wwfchina.org/greenolympics. Starting on January 21st, 2008, individual travellers can make a significant contribution towards a green Beijing Olympics by pledging to offset the carbon emissions caused by their air travel to the Games.

Launched in March of 2007, the Go for Gold campaign is an initiative to raise awareness of reducing carbon emissions caused by Olympic air travel to individuals, Olympic athletes and National Olympic Committees. Most of the 550,000 foreign visitors are expected to be travelling by air along with a portion of over one million expected domestic tourists. The total amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere can add up to hundreds of thousands of tonnes.

But individuals can take action to neutralize or reduce their CO₂ emissions by making smart energy-saving choices including purchasing carbon credits equivalent to their emissions to support carbon offsetting projects. The sum of these contributions, including the total distance travelled and tonnes of carbon reduced by travellers, will be announced by WWF China during the Olympic Games.

For all carbon offsetting initiatives, WWF supports the use of Gold Standard accredited projects. The Gold Standard Foundation evaluates and monitors offset projects to ensure the highest quality credits and most sustainable projects available on the market. China is currently developing a variety of offset projects including wind farms, and hydro and biomass power plants. WWF hopes that as Gold Standard projects develop in China, more carbon conscious individuals will be able to directly support these high quality offsets in the country.

Shanghai and Baoding to become China's low carbon city pilots

Shanghai and Baoding became the first cities joining a new WWF initiative to explore ways for low carbon development in China's urban areas on January 28, aiming at jointly showing how rapid economic growth and energy consumption can be decoupled, in order to reduce the environmental impacts from carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and the growing energy consumption.

The Low Carbon City Initiative will initially focus on energy efficiency in buildings, renewable energy and manufacturing of efficiency products. WWF will collaborate with



Black balloons symbolizing CO₂ jabbed at the ceremony

Zhang Yifei © WWF-China

the Shanghai Construction and Communication Commission and the Shanghai Research Institute of Building Science to measure the energy consumption of selected public buildings such as offices, hotels and malls. These statistics will then be audited and made public, followed by trainings to ensure the efficient operation of public buildings. Additionally, WWF will foster policy research to promote eco-building and set up demonstration projects in Shanghai.

In Baoding, WWF will work with the National Renewable Energy Industrial Production Base and the Administration of Baoding National Hi-tech Industry Development Zone to support the design and implementation of sustainable development projects such as a Solar Energy Demonstration City and a production base of renewable energy. In addition, it will also support the establishment of a network for information exchange on policy, technology cooperation in renewable energy field, promoting the investment and export of the renewable energy products.

A technical advisory group consisting of experts from ministries, research institutes and industries has been established at the end of 2007 to provide technical and policy support to ensure the initiative will be implemented in harmony with the social and economic development of China. The Low Carbon City Initiative project also gets the support from HSBC Climate Partnership Program. At the launch ceremony, persons from HSBC call the enterprises into the action of building low carbon city.

New Ramsar wetlands designated in China

Another six wetlands in China were added to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance on February 2, increasing the total number of the Ramsar wetlands to 36 that covers an area of 3.8 million hectares across the country.

The new members, including Shanghai Estuarine Nature Reserve for Chinese Sturgeon, Beilun River Estuarine Nature Reserve, Zhangjiang River Estuarine Mangrove Nature Reserve, Honghu Wetland,

Gongping Lake Nature Reserve and Ru'er-gai Wetlands, were recognized at a special celebration jointly staged by WWF, State Forestry Administration (SFA) and UNDP to mark the World Wetlands Day under the theme of "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People". According to SFA, China has invested 26.5 billion yuan in wetland protection, putting 47 per cent of the country's wetlands totaling 1.7 billion square kilometers under effective management. In addition, a total of 18 wetland parks and over 470 wetland nature reserves were established.

"WWF has joined with government agencies as well as other partners to address the degradation of wetlands since 1999, with key working area stretching through the middle and lower Yangtze, Amur-Heilong River and Tibetan Plateau," said Dr. Louis Isabelle, General Director of WWF Asia-Pacific Region. "The inclusion of Zhangjiang River Estuarine Nature Reserve, Honghu Wetland and Gongping Lake Nature Reserve where conservation projects sponsored by HSBC are implemented is a good reflection of the solid achievements WWF has accomplished over the years along with partners."

A special photo exhibition featuring 250 photos collected nationwide was also held in China Science and Technology Museum to portray the function of wetland and China's achievements in wetland conservation.



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New project to restore China's lakes launched

A four-year project to tackle the eutrophication in lakes along the central and lower Yangtze River was launched on World Water Day on March 22, aiming to improve the lakes' ecological conditions and adaptability to climate change in the region.

Supported by the HSBC Climate Partnership Programme, the East Lakes Project will be jointly implemented by WWF-China and Wuhan Water Affairs Bureau in East Lakes, building a demonstration site to explore new ways of restoring lakes plagued by eutrophication, a situation that affects almost half of the natural lakes and all of the urban lakes in the region with direct threats to the lakes' biodiversity and water supply for millions of people.



MOU signed between WWF-China and Wuhan Water Affairs Bureau

Zhang Yifei © WWF-China

The project is expected to restore the natural ecosystem of 62.6 square kilometers of lakes through integrated approaches of waste treatment, sediment cleaning, fresh water introduction and river-lake reconnection. According to Wuhan Water Affairs Bureau director Jiang Tiebing, it plans to invest 2 billion yuan (US\$282 million) into the East Lakes Project and work with WWF to find efficient ways to restore and protect the health of the lakes in the future.

"Through the East Lakes Project, WWF and its partners will explore effective ways for lake restoration, a critical area of conservation for not only wildlife but also for mankind. We hope the demonstration site will become a paradigm for future restoration of all lakes near the Central and Lower Yangtze River basin," said Dermot O'Gorman, WWF-China Country Representative.

Pig farming going green to protect the environment

Wuhan Jinlong Livestock Co. Ltd. became the first green farm in Hubei province by collaborating with WWF to employ a cleaner production method that reduces pollutants and greenhouse gas discharged from livestock farming.

Selected as the demonstration site of the Clean Production (CP) and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Livestock Farming project, the company has invested 2 million yuan (US\$280,000) to improve its facilities and capacity in sewage treatment, greenhouse gas reduction and waste utilization. Upon the completion of the first phase of the project by June, the farm will appear as one of the leading examples of green farming in the central and lower Yangtze River. "My farm is no longer a smelly farm," uttered manager Lei Xianzhong.



Wuhan Jinlong Livestock Co. Ltd manager Lei Xianzhong is confident about greening pig farming

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Incomplete statistics showed that livestock and poultry industry remains the biggest wastewater source discharging over 10 billion tonnes of sewage each year in China, far more

than the total amount of industrial and domestic sewage. It is also acknowledged that the greenhouse gas emission from pig farming is one of the major causes of climate change. “Pig farming in traditional way faces impending challenges nowadays due to the polluting impacts upon the environment,” said Lei. “We would be eliminated if we don’t take responsible action to change the way of our production.”

Supported by HSBC, the project launched last October in the province provided Lei with a chance to outrace the competition against some 15 similar farms by greening its production in an environmental-friendly and sustainable way. “The adoption of ecological farming has increased our revenue with reduced cost and pollution to the Liangzi Lake and climate,” added Lei.

“This clean production mechanism provided a huge opportunity not for Jinglong, but for the entire pig farming industry that used to be high polluting,” said WWF-China Country Representative Dermot O’Gorman. “It will set a good example of water conservation and reduction of agricultural greenhouse gas emission in the world.”

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Extreme weather tolls threat to Yangtze finless porpoise

Experts and staffs from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, WWF and Baiji Dolphin Nature Reserve have geared up a rescue action on April 3 to help the Yangtze finless porpoises in Hubei Tian’e’zhou Nature Reserve survive the aftereffects of the severe snow disaster that widely hit the southern parts of China at the beginning of this year.

During the three-day action, the rescue team retrieved 22 finless porpoises injured with varied cutting wounds, among which five were examined to be pregnant. The captured porpoises were released after receiving careful medical treatment and examination, along with beaconing equipment set for future tracing and monitoring.

The porpoise suffered steep threats from the abnormal cold weather that froze the lake with a thick layer of ice for the first time in recent 30 years. As they tried to make their way up to surface to breathe, most cetaceans were hurt badly by the knife-edged broken ice, and five porpoises including two pregnant ones were found died from wound infection.



Rescue workers move a wounded Yangtze finless porpoise for treatment

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“We used to associate the main problems of the finless porpoise conservation with habitat deterioration, food shortage and human disturbance, but the increasing extreme weather occurrence has reminded us to look at the protection of the species under the circumstance of climate change,” said Wang Ding, a noted Chinese cetacean conservation specialist from the Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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New green on-line community for youth launched

A new on-line community where young people can have their say on the environment by uploading videos, pictures and comments is being launched on March 4.

The site, www.connect2earth.org, will also allow people to rank other entries, discuss the issues that matter most to them, and share smart ideas and solutions from their own communities. Each month users will vote on a winner who will be rewarded with a Nokia mobile phone.

The overall winner, selected by a panel of prominent conservationists, will get the chance to participate in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona this October and present his or her ideas directly to political, environmental and business leaders from around the world.

As mobile phones become an increasingly popular way to access the Internet and on-line communities, the connect2earth site is optimized for using mobile phones to create short films, capture photos and submit comments. The website is aimed at people aged between 13 and 35. Visit www.connect2earth.org with your PC or mobile phone and start changing the world now!

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Illegal wildlife trade to be policed on the Internet

A new TRAFFIC investigation monitoring websites in Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan has uncovered thousands of products made from threatened wildlife protected under CITES, including elephants, rhinoceroses, Tigers and marine turtles.

Over the course of the study, surveyors identified 4,291 unique advertisements for wildlife products on popular auction websites, Yahoo and eBay, in addition to several independent websites with wildlife trade themes in Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Auction sites from Chinese mainland yielded the highest number of advertisements, followed by Taiwan and Hong Kong. Even accounting for the likelihood that a proportion of the offers aim to swindle buyers (ie, sellers have no intention of providing the advertised products), the extent of wildlife being offered for sale over the Internet in apparent contravention of international and national laws is alarming.

Progress is being made in this difficult task: during the course of the study, wildlife trade authorities in Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan were informed about suspected illegal trade. In each case, the authorities acted quickly to investigate these apparent breaches in the law, resulting in the removal of advertisements, the interception of deliveries and the conviction those involved.

The report recommends wildlife authorities develop strategies to police virtual markets, make greater efforts to bring web-based markets under the same regulatory structure as physical markets, and alert Internet shoppers to the growing use of the Internet for illegal wildlife trade. Following the report, TRAFFIC has begun working with the China CITES Management Authority and the China Internet Information Security Monitoring Bureau to address these issues.

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In Brief

Habitat management improved in Qinling

The Qinling Giant Panda Monitoring and Patrolling Network Project has seen remarkable improvement in habitat management over past two years as the latest observation in 2006 showed that the panda habitat in Qinling has expanded by about 1,000 square kilometers. The project was implemented jointly by WWF and Shaanxi Forestry Department in 2006 with an aim to provide scientific database for giant panda conservation and help improve panda habitat management among 20 nature reserves and forest farms. WWF will continue supporting the project by expanding the monitoring on golden monkey and other co-existing species and supplying more advance equipments.

Qinling Youth Ambassadors awarded

More than 20 people selected out of the 240 college students participating in the Qinling Youth Ambassador Activity were awarded recently for the committed involvement and contribution in 2007. Launched in 2006, the annual event has attracted growing attention to benefit local communities neighbouring nature reserves by involving a wider range of stakeholders and young students. The celebration marked the opening call for proposal submission for this year's activity as well.

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HCVF workshop to promote forest conservation

More than 100 people participated in a workshop on High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) held from January 9 to 11 in Beijing. Supported by WWF, the workshop aimed at promoting the concept of HCVF by sharing the successful project experiences and offering technical training to staff engaged in the field. The concept of HCVF was introduced into China by WWF in 2002 through a series of demonstration pilots in northeastern and southern parts of China respectively.

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Small Grants Fund supports new project

The WWF Small Grants Fund (SGF) has cooperated with Canon to launch a three-year project to protect the less-known yet endangered species like the red panda and oriental stork. The project will support SGF recipients to conduct analysis of the endangered situation and protection of the red panda and the monitoring and protection strategy for the oriental stork. Launched in 2001, the SGF aims at encouraging public involvement in the protection of the biodiversity.

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Sino-Russia eco-corridor survey held

A survey probing into the information of cross-border migration of the Amur tiger, Amur leopard and ungulates of Amur tiger, leopard and ungulates was jointly held by WWF-China and local agencies in February and March. The survey covered the Hunchun-Wangqing-Dongning areas close to the Sina-Russia border, where participants found traces of tigers and leopards. This survey also gathered relevant information for related agencies to improve the protection, restoration and management in border areas and nature reserves.

Rangers training held in Nyima and Amdo

A workshop training for rangers in Nyima and Amdo counties in Tibet Autonomous Region was held in January. As a part of the EU-China Biodiversity Programme, the training aimed at improving the grass-root rangers' awareness and capacity of protecting wildlife during their work. A total of 61 people including villager-turned rangers and local forestry staffs participated in the training.

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Capacity training held in Changbaishan Nature Reserve

A training course on monitoring and managing the biotic resources in natural reserves was jointly held by WWF and the conservation and management centre of Changbaishan Natural Reserve from March 15 to 18. More than 100 people attended the training to exchange and learn experiences of tiger and leopard protection and capacity of monitoring and managing wildlife resources.

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WWF participated in the ministerial meeting on Great Mekong conservation

WWF representatives participated in the second Great Mekong Sub-region Environmental Minister Meeting held in Vientiane, Laos on January 28 and 29. Delegation from six countries in the region took part in the meeting, along with some NGO representatives from WWF, UNDP and MRC. The meeting passed a joint statement that reiterated the political willingness among relevant nations to strengthen environmental protection and sustainable development as well as cooperation in the region.

Workshop for green navigation held in Jinghong

More than 50 representatives from research and education institutions, government agencies, enterprises and NGOs participated in

the East Danube – Green Mission of Navigation on Lancang-Mekong River workshop held from February 20 to 22 in Jinghong, Yunnan province. The workshop brought the participants to look into situation of the Jinghong Port and the navigation passage control of Lancang River after extensive

exchange and discussion on the environment protection measures for navigation in the Lancang River.

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WWF People
Comings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Yang Jianjun joined Xi'an office as a Project Consultant.* Linnet Kwok joined as Deputy Head of Marketing in Shanghai office.* Zhou Lijuan joined Chengdu office as Finance and Administration Officer.* Shi Quanhua joined as Species Programme Coordinator in Beijing.* Peng Jianjun joined TRAFFIC Programme as Programme Officer.
Goings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Wang Huidong has left Scientific Development and International Policy Programme.* Carine Seror has left Shanghai office to work in WWF-Singapore.

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