



# Annual Report

Evian Water Protection Institutes

2010

## Table of Contents

The Evian Water Protection Institutes .....	3
1. Programme Activities .....	4
2.1 The Jagadishpur Reservoir in Nepal (2008 – 2010).....	4
2.2 The Beung Khong Long Lake in Thailand (2008-2011).....	5
2.3 The Jaaukanigas and Humedales Chaco (La Plata river basin) in Argentina (2008-2011).....	6
3. Expenditure Report as at 31 March 2011 .....	8





## The Evian Water Protection Institutes

In spring 2008 the Compagnie des eaux Evian and the Ramsar Convention launched a three-year programme called the *Evian Ecoles de protection de l'eau* ("Evian Water Protection Institutes"). The idea behind this programme was to assist in practical terms the Ramsar Convention in its work on promoting the wise use of water resources and wetlands and to make a significant long-term contribution to the restoration and conservation of important water resources and their ecosystems.

The programme sponsored three field projects in Argentina, Nepal, and Thailand. It aims to share the expertise of all partners on water management and to help the local communities to manage their water resources in an autonomous and sustainable way and to protect the ecosystems and associated biodiversity.

The three sites selected by Ramsar and the Compagnie des eaux Evian are all Ramsar Sites and have received financial and human support for the implementation and development of each project. The project duration ranges from 2 to 3 years and the scope involves a hands-on approach in order to get local players involved in:

- 1) the restoration of the wetlands' ecological character,
- 2) the promotion of the well-being of local communities living by wetlands with fair access to resources,
- 3) the development of shared experience and expertise on the sustainable and collaborative protection of water resources, and
- 4) the active participation of local communities in wetland management.



# 1. Programme Activities

## 2.1 The Jagadishpur Reservoir in Nepal (2008 – 2010)

Status: The freshwater reservoir called Jagadishpur in the area of Terai (centre of Nepal) enables the irrigation of the lands of more than 10,000 farmers and provides a large part of the local population with fish. Named a Ramsar Site in 2003, it is also an important zone for the migration of waterbirds ('Important Bird Area', or IBA), with more than one hundred different species. The gradual increase in the number of fishermen had resulted in the overexploitation of the Jagadishpur reservoir, and the problem had become so severe that the reservoir's fish stocks were rapidly depleting. Moreover the intensive use of chemical fertilizers and the presence of exotic plants of invasive species had threatened the ecological equilibrium of the lake, its ecosystem, and the quality of the water, making the situation extremely difficult for local communities.

Objectives: This two-year project, begun in 2008 within the Water Protection Institutes, was intended to increase awareness of wetland conservation among the local communities and especially to encourage the implementation of a sustainable management plan for the reservoir in collaboration with the authorities, the economic actors, and the local population. Beyond this, a cooperative would be created in order to diversify the sources of financial revenue and to support the local economy.

Bird Conservation Nepal was the NGO that was in charge of the management of the project. Actively protecting Nepal's birds and their habitats, this non-profit organisation had the mission to provide local populations with training on how to better use the water resources around the Jagadishpur reservoir.

Achievement: The Jagadishpur Reservoir project successfully ended in July 2010. One of the major achievements of the project was the successful implementation of a five-year site



Figure 1: © Nathalie Rizzotti

management plan which was urgently needed for the effective conservation of the Ramsar Site. The setting-up of the plan improved the communication and the close collaboration among government agencies, local authorities and communities by clearly setting out their priorities on various aspects of conservation and management of the site (see [Jagadishpur Management Plan](#)).

The second main achievement has been the opening of a wetland visitor centre. Information materials such as [Fact sheets of Jagdishpur Reservoir](#), and [Birds and fishes of the lake](#) have been created as supporting communication tools. It is very useful for visitors and for local school as well. The school teachers have been trained in wetland conservation and equipped with essential educational toolkits in order to integrate wetland education into the school programmes.



The third key achievement has been the creation of a cooperative with a strong business plan. The cooperative has so far provided small scale loans to 23 various Income Generating Groups (fishing, organic farming, briquette production...), and it is maximising its benefits and increasing the capital fund by opening shares to the local communities and encouraging them



Figure 2: © Nathalie Rizzotti

for make savings. Within this structure a handicraft small enterprise has been developed with a great deal of success already in selling the handicraft items throughout the whole country.

## 2.2 The Beung Khong Long Lake in Thailand (2008-2011)

**Status:** Beung Khong Long is a permanent lake located in the northeast of Thailand in Seka District, Nong Khai, 15 km west of the Mekong River – it was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2001. Despite its recognition as a Wetland of International Importance, the lake is more and more pressured by the over-exploitation of its natural resources due to intensive fishing, the increased use of pesticides, and the gradual disappearance of the natural forests surrounding the lake.

**Objectives:** The three-year Water Protection Institutes project, in collaboration with WWF Thailand as project leader, aimed to implement a sustainable management plan of the Beung Kong Long lake in order to improve the quality of its water, the biodiversity of the lake, and its wise use. It is also intended to develop tools promoting the Convention's education and public awareness program (CEPA). In concrete terms, a long-term strategic management plan has been developed and implemented with the local stakeholders in order to reduce the overexploitation of the lake and its wetlands by developing alternative activities and by training the farmers in other methods of cultivation without chemical inputs. In addition, communication activities were carried out such as an information centre, exhibition, "nature trail", and educational toolkits for the schools and the local communities.

**Achievements:** 1.) The information centre has been finished. It included a well-structured exhibition on wetlands, a 1.4 km nature trail with 14 informative signs, a 170-metre boardwalk and a rest house along the trail. An educational program has been built up based on an environmental education video, school wetland rooms, and 18 education activities. The project staff also organized and led training for teachers and students to promote wetland conservation in the surrounding schools.



Figure 3: © Nathalie Rizzotti

2.) The five-year strategic management plan has been finalized in close collaboration with the Nongkai Government. An road map and budget for 2010 has been set up and implemented, and a monitoring committee was appointed by the Nongkai Government to

assess the project results in 2010. Moreover in December 2010, the project site received the visit of the Thailand Evian company Director. The project staff presented him with a report of the ongoing activities and results.



Figure 4: © Nathalie Rizzotti

3.) As part of the small grants programme, a pilot site has been created with local stakeholders to experiment with organic fertilizer production. Thank to the good results obtained, the pilot site is now used to promote to farmers and villages of the province organic fertilizer and its positive impact on plant cultivation. In addition it will help to support the creation of a collaborative fund of local organizations and users to distribute other grants.

4.) In order to promote the Beung Khong Long project's achievements in Thailand and in the transborder countries across the Mekong River, and to encourage replication, a website [www.wetlandnongkhai.com/index.html](http://www.wetlandnongkhai.com/index.html) has been created which provides updates on project activities and results (only in Thai). Moreover, a study tour was organized in September 2010 with the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADTEC) from the Lao People's Democratic Republic to promote the project's results and exchange experiences on education material.

## 2.3 The Jaaukanigas and Humedales Chaco (La Plata river basin) in Argentina (2008-2011)

**Status:** Located in the heart of the Andes, La Plata is the fifth widest river basin of the world, covering part of the north of Argentina, the southeast of Bolivia, the south of Brazil, Paraguay, and the majority of Uruguay. The lack of a global management plan for fishing and wetland use is leading to the over-exploitation of the natural resources. In the surrounding communities, especially, the artisanal fishermen were missing opportunities for developing sustainable activities to diminish the pressure on fishing and support livelihoods by alternative means.



Figure 5: © Nathalie Rizzotti

**Objectives:** The three-year-project on sustainable management of wetlands and its biodiversity in Jaaukanigás and Humedales Chaco Ramsar Sites, led by the NGO Proteger, has multiple objectives:

- 1) Reduce the degradation of wetland ecosystems in both Ramsar Sites and, in this way, improve the livelihood of local communities.
- 2) Develop institutional, organizational and technical capacities for adding value to fishery resources among the coastal communities, aimed at self-management and sustainability of productive trade fair activities and training.



- 3) Achieve a model of participatory management to be replicated at a regional level, in close collaboration with the States, local communities and stakeholders involved.
- 4) Raise awareness about wetlands and their resources, their sustainable use and conservation, the added value, social and cultural importance of Ramsar Sites, among other things.

Achievement: The active participation and commitment of local communities (especially the fishing cooperatives) and local governments with which the Proteger Foundation works have greatly facilitated the progress of the project. During the year 2010 the project has achieved these results:

1.) All information collected from the Ramsar Sites (including the socio-economic results of the Jaaukanigás Ramsar Site) has been analyzed and included in the recommendations made for the Guidelines for the Fisheries Management Plan. These guidelines will subsequently be addressed to the Management Committee, of which Proteger is a part.



Figure 6: © Nathalie Rizzotti

2.) Several courses have been organized in Reconquista, Villa Ocampo, Santa Fe, and Puerto Vilela with an assessment of the added value of fisheries resources. The themes studied were community and sustainable tourism in wetlands, the development of new fish products, and the handling of cleanliness and quality for new fish products. Fishermen, women and young people of the local communities have also been trained in the technical aspects of the fishery industry and supply chain, but also in marketing techniques and the functioning of the cooperative.

3.) Several meetings involving the local communities, the political institutions, and social and environmental organizations have been held during 2010 in order to articulate strategies for the better conservation of wetlands and their natural resources, meaning poverty reduction as well. A law promoting education on wetlands is under discussion in the State house of the Province of Santa Fe.

4.) The Business Plan for the commercial feasibility study of canned smoked fish and pate was completed. A proper marketing strategy developed for added value products has given good results, enabling self-sustaining enterprises and local communities to improve their incomes and living conditions.

The project's results have also been presented in 2010 in five national radio and television programmes. The education handbook "Protecting Our Wetlands" was reissued and distributed in the schools near the Ramsar Sites. The handbook "Traditional fisheries" was edited and distributed with RECOPADES. A documentary has been produced with brochures, T-shirts and posters promoting the activities of the project, and benefits will go directly to the Fishermen's Cooperatives.



### 3. Expenditure Report as at 31 March 2011

Evian Water Protection Institutes Years 2008 until 2010					Income / Expenditures	Commitments	(Over)/under spend As of 31 March 2010
Activities	BUDGET 2008	BUDGET 2009	BUDGET 2010	TOTAL BUDGET 2008-2010			
Income received Nov. 2007	100,000 €			100,000 €	100,000 €	-	-
Income received June 2008	118,000 €			118,000 €	118,000 €	-	-
Income received Mai 2009		130,772 €		130,772 €	130,772 €	-	-
Income received June 2009		182,000 €		182,000 €	182,000 €	-	-
Income received April 2010			90,000 €	90,000 €	90,000 €	-	-
<b>Total Income received 2007-2010</b>	<b>218,000 €</b>	<b>312,772 €</b>	<b>90,000 €</b>	<b>620,772 €</b>	<b>620,772 €</b>		
<b>Ramsar site - Argentina</b>	50,000 €	50,000 €	50,000 €	150,000 €	130,050 €	20,000 €	-50 €
<b>Ramsar site - Thailand</b>	50,000 €	50,000 €	50,000 €	150,000 €	130,000 €	20,000 €	-
<b>Ramsar site - Nepal</b>	30,000 €	30,000 €	-	60,000 €	54,000 €	6,000 €	-
Project Monitoring Officer	64,000 €	75,000 €	38,386 €	177,386 €	178,928 €	-	-1,542 €
Project Officer - trips	25,000 €	10,000 €	5,000 €	40,000 €	10,591 €	-	29,409 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219,000 €</b>	<b>215,000 €</b>	<b>143,386 €</b>	<b>577,386 €</b>	<b>503,569 €</b>	<b>46,000 €</b>	<b>27,817 €</b>

<b>Total incomes</b>	<b>620,772</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>503,569</b>
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>46,000</b>
<b>Residual</b>	<b>71,203</b>
<b>Breakdown residual</b>	
<b>Budgetted residual at April 2010</b>	<b>43,386</b>
<b>Additional residual</b>	<b>27,817</b>

Set aside for Japan project

