

**5th European Regional Meeting  
on the implementation and effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention**

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Workshop C

**Preparing the National CEPA plan for Spain – a participatory process**

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The Ramsar CEPA initiative is the start point of a learning and participatory process. For doing the Spanish Plan on CEPA, the national CEPA focal points (both gov and NGO) planned a seminar with actors working on wetlands' management & CEPA: NGOs, national, regional and local civil servants, and local enterprises. During its first meeting were made a survey among the participants that showed the current situation: a gap between the current target groups of CEPA activities and the key actors for wetlands' conservation.

The Seminar has met three times from 2001: first for meeting the others (WHO ARE WE?); second for interchanging information and knowledge (WHAT ARE WE DOING?); third for scheming the Plan (LET'S DO IT TOGETHER). The Seminar has become a mixed network that will guarantee the future implementation of the Plan.

We were not beginning from zero. We are using pre-existent networks in Spain, and the infrastructure support including it in the programme of the National Centre for Environmental Education (CENEAM).

Our experiences are the base for a reflection on practice that is the key for learning processes: threats of institutionalization, network and coordination, sewed from diversity and creativity, looking forward a generalization of the processes. It means to change our approach in two dimensions: 1) related to the target groups: from vertical to horizontal, considering them as agents, 2) related to managers: attending their demands and serving their objectives, but maintaining the CEPA principles.

We have not a profiled project of sustainability, nor for wetlands, nor for our world. The ideas about sustainability change in time and with the processes. We have to build it, through diverse but equitable projects. Building without a previous map, without receipts, only can be realized through learning processes.